

# NETCAST SERMON NOTES

**Series:** Make Room

**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Title:** Make Room for the Gathering

**Speaker:** Matt Chewning

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**Key Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 5–7, Acts 2 (with 1 Corinthians 11, 14, Ephesians 2:11–22, 5:18–20, 1 Peter 2:5, Revelation 7)

**The Big Idea:** Convenience culture has trained us to substitute sacred church gatherings with online content. But in both the Old and New Testaments, God builds His people into a corporate temple—where our differences vanish, our faith carries one another, and His Spirit fills us in ways that private devotion alone cannot replicate.

## **Convenience vs. The Sacred Gathering**

Modern convenience tempts us to think that if Christian content can come to us on a couch, there is no need to physically gather. While personal devotion and online sermons are good, Scripture never envisions a Christianity where believers receive everything from the church without actually gathering with the church.

- **Taught by Rhythm:** Treating church attendance as optional teaches the next generation a clear theology: that gathering with God's people isn't a priority. Our daily choices model what we truly value.
- **Undivided Passion:** We willingly endure discomfort, traffic, and crowds for sports games or concerts, yet often bring passive energy to church. Gathering around the Creator of the universe demands our highest devotion.

## **Many Pieces Built Into One Temple**

In 2 Chronicles 5, the priests set aside their divisions to consecrate themselves as one body. Similarly, the New Testament describes believers as living stones built together into a holy temple for God's Spirit (Ephesians 2:21–22, 1 Peter 2:5).

- **Disconnected Legos:** A single Lego piece left in a box cannot fulfill its purpose. When a believer remains isolated, the overall church structure is left with a void.
- **Unifying Presence:** The world constantly categorizes people by politics, status, race, and income. In the corporate gathering, all status dissolves as diverse backgrounds gather under the single truth that God's steadfast love endures forever.

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## **Filled by the Spirit Together**

In 2 Chronicles, God's glory filled the temple so intensely that human ministry had to step aside. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit filled the gathered believers, empowering them to carry His presence together into the world.

- Faith Carries Faith: Gathering allows the collective praise of the church to strengthen those who enter weary, discouraged, or weak, acting as a physical filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18–20).
- Out of God's Way: The ultimate goal of gathering is not to be impressed by human production, but to make space for Jesus to move, heal, save, and minister directly to His people.

**Call to Action / Reflection Question:** What convenience or distraction are you allowing to undermine the sacredness of gathering with God's church, and what step will you take this week to prioritize being present with His people?