

# Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas  
October 18, 2026 – Sent by the King: The House Left Empty

**Main Passage:** Matthew 12:43–45

## **Main Idea:**

A cleaned-up life is not necessarily a redeemed life; only Christ can save, transform, and make us His own.

### **1) Removal Is Not Redemption (*Matthew 12:43*)**

**Supporting Scriptures:** *Matthew 12:43; Matthew 12:22–23*

- An unclean spirit has left the person, but Jesus does not say why it left or that the person has been redeemed.
- Jesus has unquestioned authority over evil spirits. Yet removing what was harmful is not the same as receiving salvation.
- Just as removing rotten flooring leaves an unfinished hole, turning away from destructive habits is not itself spiritual restoration.
- We must confront sin, but a change in behavior can never take the place of forgiveness and new life through Christ.

### **2) Reformation Is Not Transformation (*Matthew 12:44*)**

**Supporting Scriptures:** *Matthew 12:44; Romans 3:23*

- Jesus finds the house “vacant, swept, and put in order.” Outward improvement has not changed its fundamental condition.
- The religious leaders knew the Law, temple worship, and traditions, but rejected the Messiah standing among them.
- Rules may produce discipline or respectability, but the Gospel is not a call merely to stop doing bad things.
- A young evangelist knew the right words and served in ministry, yet realized he had never personally trusted Jesus Christ.

### **3) Rejection Is Not Neutral (*Matthew 12:45*)**

**Supporting Scriptures:** *Matthew 12:45; Matthew 12:38–42*

- The returning spirit brings seven others, and the last condition becomes worse than the first. Jesus is giving a sobering warning.
- Jesus applies the picture to “this evil generation”: they witnessed His works, heard His teaching, and still rejected Him.
- Greater revelation brings greater responsibility. Refusing the truth God has given is not the same as never hearing it.
- Delaying a response to Jesus is not neutrality; continued rejection can make the heart less sensitive to His call.

## Takeaways

- Outward improvement can be beneficial, but it cannot save or reconcile anyone to God.
- Christ calls us beyond religious appearance to genuine faith, repentance, and a transformed heart.
- The danger in legalism is telling people what to stop doing without pointing them to the Savior.
- The people who heard Jesus had more than enough evidence, yet many rejected the promised King.
- Do not presume on another opportunity to respond to the truth God has already made known.

## Questions for Reflection

1. Have I personally placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, or am I depending on morality, baptism, church involvement, family history, or something I did in the past?
2. Am I simply trying to clean up my behavior, or has Jesus genuinely transformed my heart and life?
3. Is there something God has clearly shown me that I continue to resist, postpone, or ignore?
4. Have I removed sinful things from my life without fully surrendering that part of my life to Christ?
5. When I speak to others about sin, am I only telling them what needs to change, or pointing them to redemption through Jesus Christ?

## **Bottom Line**

**A cleaned-up life is not necessarily a redeemed life. Jesus didn't come merely to make us better people; He came to save us, transform us, and make us His own—and we must respond to Him in repentance and faith.**

*“A clean house is not the same thing as an occupied house.”*

*“Salvation is not learning how to look like someone who knows Jesus. Salvation is actually knowing Jesus.”*