

Empty Things

For

Empty Lives

Emptiness



Introduction

Situations That Can Cause Emptiness

- **Loss or lack**
- **Indifference of others**
- **Lack of direction or goal (routine)**
- **Investment in only temporary satisfaction**

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

- **Emotionally drained**

I. There Is An Empty Manger To Fill Lives

A. Empty lives get worse unless filled

Matthew 12:43-45

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

I. There Is An Empty Manger To Fill Lives

B. Christ left the manger to fulfill God's will

Luke 2:49

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

John 4:34

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 6:38

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

I. There Is An Empty Manger To Fill Lives

C. Christ left the manger to fill mankind's emptiness

Luke 4:16-21

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

I. There Is An Empty Manger To Fill Lives

C. Christ left the manger to fill mankind's emptiness

Luke 4:16-21

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Matthew 12:15

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

I. There Is An Empty Manger To Fill Lives

D. Christ wants to fill your life

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

II. There Is An Empty Cross To Forgive Lives

A. Empty lives riddled with guilt

1. Esau

Hebrews 12:15-17

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

II. There Is An Empty Cross To Forgive Lives

A. Empty lives riddled with guilt

2. Judas

Acts 1:16-18

16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

II. There Is An Empty Cross To Forgive Lives

B. Christ removes the guilt that we cannot

1. Through his blood

1 Peter 1:18-23

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

II. There Is An Empty Cross To Forgive Lives

B. Christ removes the guilt that we cannot

1. Through his blood

1 Peter 1:18-23 - continued

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

II. There Is An Empty Cross To Forgive Lives

B. Christ removes the guilt that we cannot

2. To stop the cycle of guilt

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Peter 4:1

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

III. There Is An Empty Tomb To Foster Hope

A. The emptiness brought about by loss

1. Hopelessness

John 11:14-16

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

2. Helplessness

John 11:21

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

III. There Is An Empty Tomb To Foster Hope

B. The expectation brought about by Christ's resurrection

1. By belief in Christ

John 11:25-27

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

III. There Is An Empty Tomb To Foster Hope

B. The expectation brought about by Christ's resurrection

2. In being with Him

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

III. There Is An Empty Tomb To Foster Hope

B. The expectation brought about by Christ's resurrection

2. In being with Him - continued

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Why Be Empty?