

GOD'S REAL HOUSE

Acts 7:47-49

Introduction: Many Christians think of God as an absentee Landlord: He left us here to do the best we can. He forgave us, then shoved us out into the world and peeks in on us now and then. Often Christians pray that the Lord would "visit them." Christians need to know that God doesn't just exist above the lights way up there somewhere. He is where we live. Where does God live? It's in the Church building isn't it? Where on the earth does He live? Well, God actually does design houses and moves in. If the house gets dirty, He moves out and sometimes destroys that dirtied house. Our text dwells on the question as to where God's real house is.

I. GOD DESIGNED HIS FIRST HOUSE

1. God's primary house, His first house was in man. (**Gen. 2:7**)
 - Man was made in the image of God who is triune (3 parts), Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God designed us with three parts: the body which is evident (visible), the soul, which is invisible and is made up of the mind, emotions, will and personality, then there is the spirit, which is also invisible, but very different from the soul. The soul allows us to know God and His spiritual world.
3. The spirit is what makes man (us) unique. It is the place where God lives.
4. God created a house for Him to live in and called it Adam, and occupied it.

II. GOD'S HOUSE BECAME DIRTY (DESECRATED)

1. You know the story of Adam's disobedience. Adam didn't die physically immediately, but he did spiritually.
 - Adam dirtied, desecrated, the house God had designed and God moved out.
2. Death is not just the separation of the soul from the body eventually, but the separation of the spirit from God.
 - All of a Christian doesn't really die. The body does, but the rest moves into his/her new home with the Lord.
 - Real death is the separation of the spirit from God. God moved out of Adam and immediately part of Adam died. He dirtied, desecrated God's house so God left.

III. GOD'S HOUSE EMPTIED, DESOLATE

1. God left, so in a sense Adam had an empty room. Adam was spiritually dead. God had left.
 - With the spirit gone, Adam's soul took over. His mind, will and emotions began to run his life.
 - This is how most people live today. Spiritually dead and therefore their souls lead their lives.
 - Their minds say do this or do that and it's done. That's the natural man. That's us without Christ.
2. Many people come to church who are dead to God and can only decorate themselves with religious things. They are in a sense like Christmas trees: dead the minute they are cut down, but are decorated, pretty, look nice for awhile, but eventually wither, turn brown and are finally thrown away.
 - People who are not Christians are spiritually dead, no matter what they look or sound like.
3. God built another house. Moses built the tabernacle and then Solomon built the temple.
 - God designed them to have three rooms (Adam had three rooms to start with):
 - an outer court (physical bodies), the place of sacrifice.
 - an inner court (the soul) the place of worship and adoration of God.
 - an innermost place (the spirit), the place where God lived.
 - The temple had been desecrated by the time Jesus came. It was no longer God's house even though the people still called it God's House. They were still doing religious things but God had left long ago and was no longer living there (or present).

IV. GOD'S HOUSE DESTROYED

1. Jesus told the disciples that the Temple would be destroyed and not a brick left standing. Adam's body died and turned back into dust, as did the temple. God destroys His houses when they become dirtied or desecrated.
2. God built a third house, which was a perfect house. Jesus told the priests that if they destroyed the temple, in three days He would raise it up again. Jesus was speaking of HIS OWN BODY, the perfect house of God.
 - Sin had caused the destruction of every house that God had built.
 - Sin (of others) would destroy this perfect house of God, the body of Jesus.
3. Remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden? *"...Lord, take this cup from me..."*
 - When Jesus took on our sins, **God had to treat Him like any other sinful man.** Remember Jesus' cry from the cross: *"...my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* Where sin is God leaves. Jesus was alone.
 - Jesus, the perfect house of God had become dirtied, desecrated by the sins of the world and was destroyed to take God's penalty for sin.
 - Adam was destroyed when he became dirtied, desecrated.
 - The Temple was destroyed because it became desecrated.
 - Jesus was also "destroyed" when He became desecrated for our sakes.
4. Adam was God's primary house, where God first lived with people.
 - The Temple was God's "pattern" house, where rules and regulations for men to develop a relationship with God were established.
 - Jesus was God's perfect house, living a perfect life among and before mankind.
5. God has stopped moving out and now has a permanent house. *"...I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever..." (Jn. 14:16)*
 - The Holy Spirit lives within the believer, permanently, forever.
 - Jesus took our sins away, forever. God no longer counts sin against the Christian and doesn't have to move out.
 - However, God does have housecleaning to do every once in a while.

CONCLUSION:

1. Think about Salvation: It's not about just getting into heaven, it's about getting God back into us, permanently.
2. Think about Security: God has stopped moving. The Holy Spirit lives within the believer forever, never to move out.
3. Think about Sanctification: We are justified immediately in the Spirit. We are sanctified progressively in the Soul. We are glorified finally in the Body.
4. Think about Spirituality: God lives in us constantly. Our behavior should reflect the fact that We are the House of God.
5. Think about Service: Never say that God can't use you. He lives within you and God can do anything.
5. Jesus made it possible for God to never have to move out of His House ever again and He won't.