

## Week 12: The Messy Room Parable

**“Sometimes when things are falling apart, they are actually falling back into place.”**

Today was Christmas – and man, do I feel blessed. My family and friends always seem to outdo themselves on me for Christmas & I feel extremely grateful for that. This year, I did happen to get a ton of clothes, probably more than I needed. Unfortunately (but somewhat fortunately), I realized that I had way too much stuff lying around my room and in my closet. So, what did I do on Christmas Day? I cleaned out my room entirely. Every drawer, table, and closet was completely torn apart. I wanted to get rid of all my old stuff so that the new stuff that I received could have a place to be. It really felt like a full-day process.

When I was about two hours in, I looked around my room, and it was a complete mess. Clothes were on the ground. Drawers were opened with socks hanging out. Old pictures from 2009 were falling out of the top of my closet. It was a complete mess. I thought to myself ... “Didn’t I set out to make my room cleaner – not messier?” But that’s when it clicked for me, and a parallel was drawn.

### **SOMETIMES THINGS HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY TORN APART FOR THEM TO BE BROUGHT BACK TOGETHER.**

Is our life not the same way? Sometimes we ask God for peace, hope, and an answer. Oftentimes, however, those answers come in ways that we don’t expect them to. They seem messy. Instead of things getting instantly better, everything feels exposed. Old memories

resurface. Emotions we thought we dealt with spill onto the floor. The coping mechanisms we leaned on get pulled out of the drawers and no longer fit.

We look around and think, “*This is worse than before!*” But what if it wasn’t ACTUALLY getting worse? What if it’s just the hard, honest truths that we have to face before we genuinely get better?

When I was cleaning my room, the mess was not the problem – not even in the slightest. The mess was actually proof that I was trying to organize what had needed to be addressed for years. You can’t reorganize a drawer without emptying it first. You can’t make room for new things, relationships, and thought patterns while clinging to things of the past. That’s just not how things work.

Mental health struggles often feel like failure because we equate struggle with weakness. But in the Bible, some of God’s greatest work happened in the *in-between*—in the wilderness, in the waiting, in the tearing down.

Jesus didn’t resurrect immediately from the cross.

Lazarus wasn’t rolled out of his tomb for days after his death.

Noah was at sea for weeks waiting for the passage of the flood.

Moral of the story: if you’re feeling like you’re struggling or your life feels like it is messy, here is what you need to know: **YOU ARE BEING REBUILT.**

I did not clean my room in two hours. I had to sit, sort, unpack, organize, throw away, etc. It took time. In the end, it all worked out. My room looks as good as new now – but that change wasn't instant. It looked really messy before it looked clean. That's normal. It's part of the process.

Your next step isn't to change everything at once. It's to stay in the room. Keep taking steps forward. Slowly, piece by piece, things will come together.

You aren't broken. You're becoming.

**GOD BLESS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS – TY**