The Empty House

**Matthew 12.43-45**

Introduction: Have you ever notice how an empty or clean counter top attracts "things?" We tend to fill up spaces in our houses and lives. This parable teaches us a number of important lessons.

**I) The Battle With Evil**

**A) Obedience demands an eviction of evil**

1. **1 Corinthians 6.9-10** the past tense shows this was past action

2. They had stopped their actions and not simply redefined sin

3. The Christian's goal is to be Christ like.

**B) Repentance demands a change of life**

1. Getting rid to sin, **Galatians 5.21ff**

2. **2 Corinthians 7.9-10** teaches there must be a change in one's life

3. Repentance is man's responsibility, **Luke 13.3**

**C) Evil is not destroyed**

1. Satan is always looking for an opportunity to take a soul, **Job 1.7**

2. We must be on guard, **1 Peter 5.8**

**II) An Empty House Must Be Filled**

**A) New born babes in Christ are empty slates**

1. They are new creatures, **2 Corinthians 5.17**

2. A religions which teaches only the "thou shalt not's" is doomed to failure.

**B) It must be filled**

1. With the word of God, **Galatians 5.23-24**

2. With acts of obedience

**III) The Return of Evil**

**A) Anybody can fall, 2 Peter 2.20-22**

1. Usually through neglect, or idleness

2. We leave an opportunity for evil to re-enter our lives.

3. People often go back into sin because they miss it, or the people.

**B) The Bible warns us about leaving our first love**

1. A Christian that leaves their first love is describes in **2 Peter 2.20-22; Hebrews 6.4-6; Hebrews 10.26**

2. Personal experience has taught me that some of the most worldly , immoral, and mean people used to be Christians. Why?

**IV) Remedy**

**A) Fill the house**

1. Examine our lives and see what we can do.

2. Righteousness is not an absence of evil, **Phil. 4.8-9**

3. Some try to be neutral but that is not possible, **Obadiah 11.**

4. The more we do the better we become

5. Be with godly people, **1 Corinthians 15.33**.

**B) Make sure we do a little house cleaning from time to time, 2 Corinthians 13.5.**

Conclusion: A few years ago the local authorities in a big city had to send a clean up crew to a house. The owner simply piled up the garbage in the house. Human waste, decaying food, roaches, mice, etc were removed from the house. It did not get that bad over night but over time. The same goes for our lives. Former Christians engaged in all forms of evil. They did not fill their house with godliness and now satan dwells there.