

Jesus Has Left The Building

- Introduction:
1. Ills. Of Going to the Osmonds concert when I was a kid - "The Osmonds have left the building."
 2. We may need to rethink our view of Church.
 3. Yes, Jesus meets us at church.
 4. We sing the song, "This is holy ground."
 5. We speak of God's presence.
 6. But sometimes God "leaves the building"
 - a. Because of anger (Psalm 78:56-61).
 - b. Because of mission (Luke 19:10).

I. The Church: Institutional or Relational?

- A. The problem that many people have with the church today is that to them, it is nothing more than an institution.
 1. In the past, I've become defensive of throwing off on that term.
 2. After all, "institution" simply means "an organization, establishment, or society."
 3. And the church is all of these.
 4. But the antagonism that some people have toward the term, "institution" is that it is cold, uncaring, and unconcerned about people.
- B. Jefferson Bethke Video - "Why I Hate Religion But Love Jesus."
 1. This YouTube video has over 25 million views.
 2. Overstates the case, Religion and Jesus are not opposed.
 3. But the point of an institutional religion that looks more like a museum than a living organism is a problem.
 4. Assimilation is not the same thing as discipleship.
 - a. Jesus is the end, not the church.
 - b. Jesus is our Savior, not the church.

II. We Must Emerge

- A. (Genesis 45:8; 50:20) Joseph.
- B. (Exodus 2-4) Moses.
- D. (2 Corinthians 8:9; John 1:14; Hebrews 12:1-2) Jesus.
- E. Ills. Of man who said, "They know we're here and the doors are unlocked. If they want to be saved, they'll come.
- F. If Jesus was willing to leave heaven, are we willing to leave the comfort and security of our building to participate with Him in His mission?

III. Challenges To Leaving The Building

- A. Fear (John 20:19).
- B. Consequences (Matthew 25:33-40).
- C. Lack of Faith (2 Corinthians 4:13).
- D. Lack of Vision (Numbers 13:33; 14:8-9).

- Conclusion:
1. Let us overcome our fears, and come to realize that Christianity is more than what takes place in a building on Sunday.
 2. It is a way of life lived out in our communities and neighborhoods.