

THE BIG IDEA: God's plan from the beginning was to fill the empty places.

The Take-Off

This morning we're starting a new series called "Remix" and I need to explain to you how God set this up

I believe that He is always leading us, guiding us, speaking to us

I also believe that what He says and where He leads doesn't always make sense in the moment that He speaks

That's pretty much what the entire previous series - disCOMFORT - was about.

We've got to leave what's comfortable to live what's possible, and that happens by trusting His voice and obeying it

John 10:27 / "My sheep listen to (*hear, recognize*) my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

And so a month or so ago as I was asking God what was next for our body, He started speaking to me about what it would be like when our church body began getting together again.

At least, that's what I thought it was about. I kept listening, and He gave me the word "remix" and spoke from **Isaiah 43:19** / "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

1. What exactly is a remix?

- a. A remix is a new sound of an old song
- b. It's taking the foundation of a song and giving it a new twist, a fresh take
- c. Let me take just a minute and play an example for you
- d. First, a little of the original
- e. Now, a little of the remix
- f. I believe, like **Isaiah 43:19** says, that God is doing something new, but the remix will never replace the truth that we have known from the beginning
- g. If we remix the original to the point that the song is no longer recognizable, we have't created a remix, but a new song entirely
- h. **Galatians 1:8** / "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!"
- i. In order to do a remix, you've got to know the original
- j. That's the heart of this series - understanding the original so that we can embrace the new thing God is doing in order that people would hear and know His heart and plan from the beginning
- k. In the weeks to come, we'll look at ancient truths and practices from the early church - we'll examine creeds, hymns, etc - in order to trace God's truth and highlight it in the remix
- l. That may be a little confusing but if you'll hang in here for the whole series, it'll come together for you

2. We're made to be filled

- a. So we've got to know the original in order to do a remix
- b. That's the takeaway for this intro - and we're not going to be in a hurry - so let me take some time this morning to share what God put on my heart a few weeks ago that is just now making sense in light of what our country is facing following the death of George Floyd
- c. I must confess that I have a lot of Scripture and I'm not sure I'm going to do a great job fitting my heart into an outline - so I'm asking for a lot of grace this morning
- d. **Luke 11:24-26**
 - Context is about spiritual authority
 - Demon is cast out and the house is "swept clean" and "in order" (NIV)
 - Most of us would take that as a win, but Jesus said that it left the door open for the end to be worse
- e. This is an odd thing to me and I'm not even the cleanest guy around
- f. We were never meant to be empty
- g. You already know this, which is why your life is always full of something
- h. In fact, I bet most of us refilled our lives during this pandemic
- i. Back in the story, the house is swept clean and in order and that's not the win - that's like a halftime lead
- j. But clean and in order can't be the goal if it means UNOCCUPIED
- k. Some of us get so stuck on being "clean enough" - we afraid to do wrong, think wrong, or be wrong because we fear it will mess it all up
- l. God is more concerned about us being empty because He knows that empty is VULNERABLE

- m. God knew that and that's why His plan from the beginning is that we would be filled because God's plan from the beginning was that the whole earth would be filled
- n. Let me show you:
 - **Gen. 1:2** / The earth was empty and God's response was to FILL THE EARTH
 - **Gen. 1:28** / Be fruitful and increase. FILL THE EARTH (more on this next!)
 - **Ephesians 4:10** / Jesus came to FILL THE EARTH
 - **Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:8** / so we can FILL THE EARTH (hang in there...!)
 - **Isaiah 6:3** / We can see through Isaiah's vision that God's glory WILL FILL THE EARTH
- o. **God's plan from the beginning was the fill the empty places.**
- p. But that's not all...

3. We're filled to fill

- a. He wants to fill them through us
- b. **Genesis 1:28** / we're told to BE FRUITFUL and MULTIPLY and FILL THE EARTH
- c. All pre-sin, right? So if Adam and Eve had done that, the earth would have been filled with the glory of God through people in the image of God
- d. We know from **Phil. 2:7 (NIV)** that Jesus emptied Himself when He came. Why? So we could be filled again.
- e. The old song was being restored and remixed.
- f. For what purpose? **Matthew 28:20** - to take the song to the ends of the earth
- g. The command to multiply wasn't finished until the earth was full
- h. If there's a space, we're to fill it with the glory of God - but we've got to be full first
- i. We're filled to fill

4. What are you full of?

- a. **Matt. 21:13** / Prayer
- b. **Psalms 71:8** / Praise
- c. **Ephesians 3:19** / The very fullness of God Himself
- d. **Acts 1:8** / Power
- e. **Colossians 3:16** / The Word of God and thankfulness
- f. **Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 6:19** / The Holy Spirit

The Landing

God's plan from the beginning has been to fill the empty places and He wants to use each of us in the process.

But we must be filled first - with His salvation and with His Spirit.

Are you empty because of sin? Jesus can save you, fill you, and bring the song of heaven back to you.

John 10:10 / our enemy empties, but our Savior fills.

Let's pray that he fills you now.