Be like Enoch - Walking Out of an Empty Religion

Theme: The upcoming Rapture isn't for a label; it's for a relationship. In a lukewarm world, God is looking for individuals who want to walk with Him.

1. The Trap of the "Laodicean" Illusion (The Challenge)

Start by holding up the mirror to modern culture. People are busy, comfortable, and highly connected, yet spiritually starving.

- **The Metaphor:** The Church of Laodicea had it all - wealth, status, and religious routines. But Jesus was left standing outside the door knocking.
- **The Wake-Up Call:** It is dangerously easy to have a Christian label without a Christian life. God isn't looking for our church attendance or our good behavior; He is looking for our hearts.
- **The Reality Check:** When the Rapture happens, it will expose empty profession. We cannot ride the coattails of cultural Christianity into eternity.

2. The Beauty of the Enoch Alternative (The Encouragement)

Shift the focus from the dark culture to the brilliant light of Enoch's life.

- **The Environment:** Enoch lived in an era just like ours - a dark, chaotic, corrupt, and compromised, yet he didn't let the culture dictate his climate.
- **The Walk:** For 300 years, Enoch simply *walked* with God. Walking implies a daily, consistent, intimate pace. It means agreement, conversation, and presence. Enoch didn't survive a corrupt world because he was running a spiritual marathon to impress God. He survived because he kept God's pace. Legalism tells you to run faster so God loves you; grace invites you to slow down and walk *with* Him because He already does.
- **The Reward:** Enoch didn't see death because his earthly walk naturally transitioned into an eternal one. His life proved that God deeply rewards those who diligently seek Him.

3. The Invitation: Getting the King Inside the Room

Conclude with a powerful, motivating call to action that leaves people feeling inspired to change.

- **Open the Door:** Bring it back to Revelation 3:20. Jesus is knocking on the door of our daily lives. He isn't demanding perfection before He comes in; He is asking for fellowship. Jesus isn't standing outside a crack house or a casino knocking on the door. He is standing outside His own church! They had the lights on, the music playing, and the offerings collected - but they locked the King out of the room.
- **Choose the Pace:** Stop sprinting with the world and start walking with God. Think about the shock of Revelation 3:20. Jesus isn't standing outside a crack house or a casino knocking on the door. He is standing outside His own church! They had the lights on, the music playing, and the offerings collected - but they locked the King out of the room. Enoch lived in a world with no churches, but his heart was wide open. Laodicea had a beautiful building, but their hearts were locked shut.
- **The Promise:** You don't have to change the whole world to please God. You just have to change who you are walking with. If you walk with Him now, you will fly with Him later.

4. The Enoch Pattern: Faith is an Active Walk

The earth back in Enoch's day was a complete mess. Genesis 6 tells us that the thoughts of mankind were "only evil continually." In the middle of that dark culture, Enoch stood out.

- **Hebrews 11:5** says he was commended as **"one who pleased God."**
- **Genesis 5:24** says he **"walked with God."**

In the original language, "*walking*" implies continuous action, relationship, and movement in the same direction. Enoch's faith wasn't just a mental opinion; it was a counter-cultural lifestyle of intimacy with God. He lived *differently* because he believed *differently*.

5. The Application: The Rapture is for True Believers, Not Just "Professors"

The upcoming Rapture mirrors exactly what Jesus and the Apostles warned about. In the modern church, many people claim the title of "Christian," but their lives look no different than the corrupt world around them.

Scripture strongly supports that the Rapture will separate true, faithful believers from those who are just cultural Christians:

- **The Warning from Jesus:** In **Matthew 7:21**, Jesus explicitly warns, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*
- **The "Days of Noah" Parallel:** Jesus said the end times would be just like the days of Noah and Enoch (Luke 17:26). People were eating, drinking, and marrying - completely indifferent to God - right up until the day judgment hit.
- **The Ready and the Unready:** In the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25), all ten looked like they belonged to the wedding party, but five didn't have oil in their lamps (representing the Holy Spirit/genuine spiritual life). When the bridegroom arrived suddenly (a picture of the Rapture), only those who were ready went in with him.

The Bottom Line

True faith cannot be separated from a godly life. Enoch's translation proves that God values a faith that pursues Him intimately over a world that ignores Him. For the upcoming Rapture, the standard hasn't changed. It isn't for those who simply hold a Christian label, but for those whose faith, like Enoch's, actively pleases God and separates them from the corruption of the age.

The Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22 is the perfect, chilling metaphor for today's spiritual climate. It completely ties your thoughts together about empty religious professions versus the faith of Enoch.

If Enoch is the blueprint for the *ready* believer who gets caught up, Laodicea is the blueprint for the *self-deceived, culturally Christian* world that gets left behind.

The Illusion of Richness vs. Reality

The core sickness of the Laodicean church was its total **lack of self-awareness**. They looked at their material comfort, their programs, and their church attendance and said:

"I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." (Revelation 3:17)

But Jesus pulls back the spiritual curtain and gives them a terrifying reality check:

"But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

They thought they were fine because they had the Christian label, but they were spiritually empty. Today, we see the exact same thing: churches and individuals who are highly polished, wealthy, and culturally comfortable, but completely devoid of the actual power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lukewarm Nausea

Jesus famously tells them, *"Because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth"* (Revelation 3:16).

Historically, Laodicea had to pipe its water in through aqueducts. By the time it arrived, it was tepid, full of minerals, and literally made people gag. Jesus is saying that a person who plays the middle ground—claiming to know Him but living exactly like the world—is spiritually nauseating to Him. They aren't cold (an outright unbeliever) and they aren't hot (on fire like Enoch); they are just indifferent, compromising, and comfortable.

Where is Jesus in a Laodicean Church?

The most heartbreaking verse in the letter is Revelation 3:20: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."*

We often use this verse for evangelism to non-believers, but **Jesus was talking to the church.** He was standing *outside* His own church. They were having services, singing songs, and managing their wealth, but Jesus wasn't even allowed in the building. He was calling out to *individuals* inside the empty religion to open the door and have real, intimate fellowship with Him.

The Enoch Contrast

When you contrast this with Enoch, the metaphor becomes incredibly sharp:

- **Laodicea** is inside the building, doing religion, but Jesus is outside knocking. They are "blind and naked," completely unready for His return.
- **Enoch** was out in a corrupt world, but he was walking hand-in-hand with God in absolute intimacy. He didn't need wealth or cultural approval because his wealth was his relationship with God.

When the Rapture happens, it will rip through the "Laodicean" illusion of the modern church, leaving empty profession behind, and catching up those who, like Enoch, actually pleased God by walking with Him.

While the "*Woman is Israel*" view is prominent in modern dispensational circles, the "Woman is the True Believers / The True Church**"** is a massive, historic, and highly respected position held by many top-tier theologians and scholars.

The New Testament consistently uses the imagery of a *woman*, a *bride*, and a *mother* to describe the people of God as a whole collective entity - which seamlessly bridges the Old Covenant faithful who brought forth Christ into the New Testament Church that continues after Him.

Here is why that the Woman is the Church makes total structural and biblical sense:

1. The Dynamic Transition in Revelation 12

If you look at the timeline of Revelation 12, the identity of the Woman actually shifts and flows in a way that *only* makes sense if she represents the continuous, corporate Assembly of God (the Church in its broadest sense):

- **Before the birth:** She represents the Old Testament faithful (the faithful remnant of Israel/the community of faith) waiting for the Messiah.
- **After the Man-Child is caught up:** She immediately transforms into the New Testament Church on earth, undergoing persecution by the dragon (Satan) for 1,260 days.
- **Verse 17 Proof:** Look at the very end of the chapter. The dragon goes off to wage war against *"the rest of her offspring."* How does the Bible define them? *"Those who keep God's commands and **hold fast their testimony about Jesus**."* That is a dictionary definition of the NT Church!

2. The Multi-Tiered Church View (The Wise vs. Lukewarm)

By identifying the Woman as the broader Church, the Man-Child being the Overcomers works beautifully. It sets up a picture of a divided or multi-tiered Church maturity level at the end of the age:

- **The Man-Child (Enoch Class / Overcomers):** The spiritually mature, watching, praying believers who are walking intimately with God. They are "caught up" (*harpazo*) directly to the throne early.
- **The Woman (The Broader Corporate Church Body):** The rest of the believers who might have been caught up in the cultural or "Laodicean" state. Because they weren't spiritually ready to escape, they are left on earth. However, God doesn't abandon them—He *protects and refines them* in the wilderness for 3.5 years, forcing them to shed their lukewarmness through trial until they are caught up later.