

Thanksgiving Offering

How we choose to invest our lives reflects what we believe about God. We express our gratitude to God through our prayers, worship, service, and gifts. Our Thanksgiving offering is a chance to give back to God, over and above our regular tithes and offerings, what He has first given us.




Biblical Principles on Giving:

God owns everything.	1 Chronicles 29:10-13
God is generous.	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
We cannot out-give God.	Malachi 3:10b, Philippians 4:19

Among the targets for our Thanksgiving offering are:

Faith Academy
Informed Choices Medical Clinic
The Bird House
Global Worker Partnership Fund
Ministry Fund
Church Multiplication and Growth Fund

WAYS TO GIVE

-  **MOBILE:** Download the Parkview App
-  **ONLINE:** Visit parkviewchurch.org/give
-  **ONSITE:** Place your gift into an offering basket.

Any offering given today will go directly to the Thanksgiving offering. If you wish to give to the Thanksgiving offering after today, simply write "Thanksgiving offering" in the memo line of your check or select "Thanksgiving offering" online at parkviewchurch.org/give.

More information about the Thanksgiving offering can be found at parkviewchurch.org/give.

The Crown and The Cross: A Study of Mark's Gospel

CLEAN HANDS, DIRTY HEARTS

Mark 7:1-23

Pastor Doug Schillinger
November 19, 2017

I. WARNING SIGNS: Symptoms of a Religious Heart

And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." **Mark 7:5-8**

- Critical and condemning of others
- Emphasis on rules and rituals
- Blind and blatant hypocrisy
- Distant relationship with God

II. THE GOSPEL: Treatment for Dirty Hearts

A. Jesus' Diagnosis: An honest evaluation of our hearts

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." **Mark 7:21-23**

- Our greatest danger doesn't lurk around us, it resides in us!
- Rules, rituals, and religion can't resolve our crisis!

B. Jesus' Treatment: Repent and believe in the Gospel

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." **Mark 1:14b-15**

III. A NEW HEART: Evidences of a Clean Heart

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

Discussion Questions:

Orient Your Minds to God's Word

- Read **Mark 7:1-23** together and discuss it.

Ask some basic questions:

- Can anyone paraphrase this passage in their own words?
- What surprises you?
- If you gave these verses to someone who had never heard of Jesus before, what do you think their response would be?
- What's the main point of the passage?

Application for the Heart and Life

(This section is designed for Formation Groups = small (2-3) gender-specific groups for confession of sin and reminding one another of Gospel truth)

Gospel growth: Confession and Repentance

We all tend to default towards religion, which is putting our obedience before our acceptance. The heart of religion is justifying yourself via obedience. If we are bad at studying the Bible on a regular basis or bad at evangelism, we feel like terrible Christians and are unable to enjoy God's love.

The Gospel is altogether different because it rightly puts acceptance before obedience. The Gospel meets us in our failures with forgiveness and grace, and it enables us to be set free from religious rules. Our obedience through the Gospel ought to be an overflow of joy from being justified by Christ and accepted by the Father.

- Are there areas of your spiritual life where you feel like a terrible Christian?
- In what ways do you turn the Christian life into religion?
- Encourage one another with the Gospel: There is nothing you can do to earn God's favor. God loves you fully today because of Jesus' perfect life. His love is not dependent on your performance.