

## God Will Answer the Prayer of a Hypocrite

—Ray Ortlund

*Matthew 7:1–7 (ESV)*

*“Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye. <sup>6</sup>“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. <sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Does prayer really come with a guarantee? Here is one prayer God will surely answer. It’s implied in the context.

In verse 3 Jesus says, “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” The key words are “but do not notice.” The problem is not intentional. We just don’t notice. And in verse 5, Jesus calls it hypocrisy: “You hypocrite . . . .”

Hypocrisy is more than conscious self-excusing. It is also just not seeing who we are, because we don’t want to see, we don’t even want to think about it.

Here is a prayer with no guarantee of an answer: “Father, help my brother see his hypocrisy.” Here is a prayer with a guaranteed answer: “Father, I am a hypocrite, more than I know. Please help me see myself. And help me to change.”

With that prayer come humility, reality with God, growth in grace, happiness of conscience, freedom of heart, mercy toward my brother, and much more – all “good things” gladly given by our Father in heaven (Matthew 7:11).

“Ask, and it will be given to you.”



August 28, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## Truly Clean

*Mark 7:6 WEB*

He answered 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.’

# Order of Service

## Announcements

## Welcome

## Preparation for Worship

### -----God's Greatness-----

## Call To Worship

**Hymn of Praise:** "King of Kings" . . . . . Ligertwood/Ingram

## Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The New City Catechism\*, Q/A #2 & #3

## Hymn of Affirmation

"What He's Done". . . . . Stanfill/Leonard/Golden/Sooter

## Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

### ----- God's Renewal-----

**Understanding Ourselves Rightly:** Luke 15:17-19

## Public Confession

## Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Romans 8:1

**Song of Renewal:** "Clean". . . . . Natalie Grant

### -----God's Grace-----

**Scripture Reading:** *Mark 7:1-13 (ESV)*

## Prayer

## The Sermon

"Truly Clean"

**Song of Communion:** "O Lord You're Beautiful". . . . Keith Green

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

## Holy Communion

### -----God's Blessing-----

**Parting Hymn:** "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

. . . . . Robinson/Farren/Thompson

## Benediction

\*The New City Catechism was developed by Tim Keller at Redeemer New York and The Gospel Coalition. There are 52 questions and answers which are based on and adapted from Calvin's Geneva Catechism, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Heidelberg Catechism. Taken from New City Catechism by The Gospel Coalition and Redeemer Presbyterian Church, © 2017. Used by permission of Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, [www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org).

## He knows your heart.

**He knows if you love Him**, if the trajectory of your life is to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, if He is your all in all, if He is your everything, if you adore Him, if you love Him and worship Him from the heart, He knows that and He knows if you're a hypocrite.

**We always live with the possibility of hypocrisy, people trying to live a good life on the outside earn their way to God while their hearts are far from Him.**

## What is the solution?

**Philippians 3:7 (ESV)** *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

They were all a disastrous loss to Paul. They were driving him into hell. And at that point, he says, "*I discovered the righteousness not of my own, but the righteousness of God which comes by faith in Christ and his life was transformed.*"

Hypocrites desperately need to repent . . . desperately need to repent.

**Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)**

**"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.**

The sin of hypocrisy is a sin that God forgives all the time. Embrace His Son, repent of your religion. The exaggerated reverence with which the scribes and Pharisees regarded the oral law was an expression of false piety supported by human precepts devoid of authority. Jesus categorically rejects the authority of the oral law.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sproul, R. C. (2011). *Mark* (First Edition, p. 154). Reformation Trust.

<sup>2</sup>Sproul, R. C. (2011). *Mark* (First Edition, p. 156). Reformation Trust.

<sup>3</sup>Sproul, R. C. (2011). *Mark* (First Edition, p. 158). Reformation Trust.

<sup>4</sup>Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

<sup>5</sup>Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

<sup>6</sup>Lane, W. L. (1974). *The Gospel of Mark* (p. 249). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

This has happened in every society in every culture in the history of the world, but the Pharisees did it with a vengeance. First, they would comment on the law. Then they would write a policy about the law. After some time, the policy would be elevated to a regulation, and shortly thereafter the regulation would become as conscience-binding as the written law of God. That process can happen in a society. It can happen in a church. It can happen in any subgroup where people meet.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Hypocrisy of Men**

#### **Mark 7:6–8 (ESV)**

*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; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ <sup>8</sup>You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”*

**We are prone to look on outward appearances, but God looks on the heart.** Thus, outward cleansing is of little ultimate value compared with inward cleansing. We need to ask God to cleanse us in our inward parts, to make our hearts right, that our words would not be evidence of hypocrisy.<sup>3</sup>

### **Grasp the Purpose of the Bible**

We have to see what the Bible is for, what we’re trying to accomplish when we obey the Bible.

**God says, “The purpose of the Bible is not formal compliance, but I want your heart.**

**The purpose of the Bible is not to get God in a corner, not to manipulate God, not to control him so he has to bless you and answer your prayers, not so you can feel righteous.** The purpose, according to this, of obeying the Bible is an intimate love relationship with God. God says, “I want you to obey the Bible because I want intimacy with you.”<sup>4</sup>

### **Fall in love with the Person as its center**

You can’t have a personal, intimate relationship with God unless you are willing to submit, to adjust your life to God’s will and to the authority of the Bible. If you adjust your life to the authority of the Bible, out of love, out of a desire to please and know him, then you are understanding the purpose of the Word of God.<sup>5</sup>

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, August 28 4:00 P.M. Baptism Service**

at the home of Dave and Lisa Frame; followed by supper

### **Saturday, September 3 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner**

at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

### **Saturday, September 10 6:00 P.M. Ladies’ Supper**

at the home of Donna Plowfield, 983 E. Valley Rd. Pottstown, 19464

Make your reservation with Koreen Mace.

### **Saturday, September 17 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast**

at the home of Pastor Rick

### **Sunday, September 25 10:30 A.M.**

**David Nelson** and associates will be with us for the worship service.

### **Saturday, November 12 Ladies Event**

Verna Bowman speaking: Time and Place TBD

### **DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden**

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving near the end of this year.



### **CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl**

- Look for their prayer letter on our website. [www.gcc-pa.org](http://www.gcc-pa.org)

### **Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson**

Please pray for the five new classes started in Odisha State in the country of India. Forty-two million people live in Odisha State. The majority are Hindus, with only 3% Christians. As a minority in this state, Bible-believing followers of Christ are under-equipped and persecuted. Please pray that God will glorify Himself through the CCI ministry there. Pray that God will raise up a growing harvest force of men and women in this eastern Indian state.

## Small Group Starting in September

In a world that seems to be spinning out of control, we need hope more than ever. What if the life sustaining hope you need is found within the pages of the Bible?

Join Dr. David Jeremiah as he unpacks the scriptures to reveal that the problems we are facing is to be expected, and in fact will increase as we draw closer to the End Times. But even more importantly we should not worry since Jesus has overcome the world. And because of this there is hope for this life, but more importantly for the next.

“Where Do We Go From Here?” with Dr. David Jeremiah.

**Sign up at the Welcome Table today!**

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . August 28, 2022

- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are getting settled in their new home in California. Pray they will always remember they are children of God and that He will protect them.
- Pray for Terri Yerk, friend of Donna Jenkins, who was admitted to Park House with a stroke. Pray for healing for him and God's comfort for his wife.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Praise that Ernest, co-worker of Steve Simons, is taking parenting classes and has visitation rights for his child.
- Pray for Steve's brother John's mother-in-law, who had a nasty fall and is in Paoli Memorial Hospital. Pray for her healing.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who will be starting a 5-day radiation treatment program for one month beginning on September 19th. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, who has been going through multiple surgeries due to burns from his accident. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Steve Simons' neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

## Message

### Truly Clean

#### Mark 7:1–8

##### Introduction

There seems to be a shift in the tone of Mark's gospel when we come to chapter 7. So far, he mostly has recorded Jesus' marvelous supernatural works as he makes his case that Jesus is the Son of God. However, he has put very little accent on the content of Jesus' teaching to this point, with the exception of the parables recorded in chapters 3 and 4. Finally, here in Mark 7, we begin to find some additional teaching from Jesus, but even here the teaching is provoked by an incident.<sup>1</sup>

##### The Setting

###### Mark 7:1–2 (ESV)

*Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.*

It is about ninety miles from Jerusalem to Capernaum on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The fact that these religious leaders made this journey strongly suggests they were highly motivated to observe and confront Jesus. The eating of bread without proper concern for the removal of ritual defilement was merely the immediate occasion for this confrontation.

##### The Tradition of the Elders

###### Mark 7:3–5 (ESV)

*(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) <sup>5</sup>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?”*

##### What was going on in this passage?

**One commentator has called this practice of the Jews “regulation madness.”**

This is what happens when people who have a disposition to control others' lives begin to chip away at their freedoms and accumulate power for themselves.