

Mark 7:1-23 and Luke 11:1-13

Questions

1. Which of the traditions that you observe are good and which ones have a negative effect on you? Are there any traditions you place above God's Word?
2. It is always much easier to look at the heart of others. What traits do you see in others that you find challenging or difficult to deal with?
3. In this passage, Jesus is describing the condition of the human heart. How well do you know your own heart? Give yourself a mark from 1 to 10.
4. Read and meditate on this week's Daniel's Windows.

The famous American evangelist D L Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit. "Well," he said, "*I need a continual infilling because I leak!*" He pointed to a water tank that had sprung a leak. "*I'm like that!*" he said. Although we leak, we will always be children of God. However, our relationship with, our closeness to and our experience of our heavenly Father will be affected by our priorities, the decisions we make and the way we treat other people. If, despite our fallen nature, we would never refuse food to our hungry children, how much more confident should we be that our heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who are hungry for more of the Spirit? As we all inevitably leak, shouldn't this desire for continual filling be our daily prayer?

5. What do you think of D L Moody's belief that we need continuous infilling because we leak? Do you think there are seasons of life when the leaking is greater than others? Explain your answer.
6. Jesus is talking to people who already are children of God. If we are believers, why should we continually ask our heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit?
7. Is there anything that might stop our heavenly Father from answering this kind of prayer?
8. End this time in personal meditative prayer.