Dear Lexie,

In my message last Sabbath, Married with Children, I mentioned something that has created a great deal of interest. That is a good thing for us preachers, because it's a sign that someone is listening.

The issue at hand is an incident that takes place in Mark 7:9-13 in which Jesus confronts the leaders of the Jewish community over their willingness to create a loophole that in their minds exempts them from obeying the command to honor their parents as the Law commands. The "loophole" was the Hebrew tradition of Corban. Corban was a technical term used to refer to a gift or an offering consecrated to God. If something was declared as Corban, it meant that it was holy unto the Lord and although it might remain in the possession of the owner, it was not to be used for any other purpose. In principle this was not a bad thing, but all too often Corban was executed not because of a heart-felt desire to honor God, but simply to deny others, and in this case parents, the right to share in one's financial resources.

...(read more below)
"God's and God's Alone"

Although Corban is not a practice that is used today, God in a sense has instituted his own version of Corban. Malachi 3:7-9 says: "Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings."

In several ways many of us are just as guilty as the Jewish leaders were in Jesus' day, because, in a sense, we have created our own Corban. We have created reasons as to why we should not obey the word of the Lord. I find it amazing that whenever there is some kind of financial crisis that strikes many of our homes, one of the first ways God's people attempt to steer themselves clear is by using the resources that God has designated as His. For some, it doesn't have to take a crisis. We are bold enough to divert what God has reserved for the "temple" to be used for our own personal interests, and in so doing, we have pronounced our own personal Corban.

As we have been examining the Ten Commandments these past few weeks, the one message that has come through clearly is that what God has reserved for Himself, belongs to Him and Him alone. My prayer is that as His Children, we will honor our "Father" and not devise ways to rob Him of the honor due Him, and ultimately rob ourselves of the blessings that have been reserved for those who are willing to live a life of faithfulness.

Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor
UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

March 31
Pr. Charles A. Tapp

April 7
(Resurrection Sabbath)
Pr. Charles A. Tapp

Worship Services
every Saturday:
First Service - 8:45am
Sabbath School -
10:00am
Sabbath Celebration -
11:15am

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May God continue to richly bless you!

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