



# A BETTER OFFERING

Worship Hurts

Luke 21:1-4 | May 2, 21 | Pastor Michael Foster

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- Jesus despises false religion that exploits the vulnerable
  
- Jesus delights in sacrificial giving and serving
  - The value of the gift is in the heart of the giver
  - The purest worship can happen in the poorest conditions
  - The way to give more is to give up

## TAKE ACTION

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- Offer yourself in serving at [www.forcey.org/serve](http://www.forcey.org/serve)
- Offer yourself in giving at [www.forcey.org/give](http://www.forcey.org/give)
- \*Remember to consider our mission projects – [www.forcey.org/missions-conference](http://www.forcey.org/missions-conference)

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

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- Meditate on Luke 21:1-4, Romans 12:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, 2 Corinthians 8-9
- Read “Full-Service or Self-Service” by Tony Evans - <https://tonyevans.org/full-service-or-self-service/>
- Read *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn
- Read *Improving Your Serve* by Chuck Swindoll
- Read *Your Glory* by Phil Powers
- Listen to “One Pure and Holy Passion” - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbmqNzUEyEg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbmqNzUEyEg)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

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1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. As you think back over our whole series on worship (which included messages on the woman of Luke 7, the Samaritan leper, the cost of following Jesus, Palm Sunday, and Mary and Martha), what are some things you want to remember?
3. Describe a time when you have seen religion used to exploit vulnerable people. How do you think Jesus felt about that situation? (Consider Luke 19:45-46 and 20:45-47)
4. Spend some time reading Matthew 23. What “pharisaical” practices must we be careful to guard against in our giving and serving today? (Consider also Matthew 6:1-4)
5. Share about some of the ways God has worked in your heart as you have trusted Him through your serving and/or giving.
6. Share about your experience of serving in various ministries (in our church or elsewhere). How has God worked in you or through you during those experiences?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What are some important principles about giving we could draw from this chapter?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. What do the Macedonian churches described in these verses have in common with the widow of Luke 21?
9. Read Philippians 4:19. How does this promise of God encourage your heart as you look to serve and give to the Lord?
10. Spend some time thanking God for the way He has provided for our church through the serving and giving of His people. Ask the Lord to continue to provide!

# WORSHIP MINISTRY PRAYER CALENDAR

Would you commit to praying every day for four weeks in May for our worship ministry?  
 Each day, pray for the Lord to provide for a need in our ministry and pray for our team to grow in a value of our ministry.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For God to provide strength and grace to Pastor Lonnie and those helping him to lead the ministry.	For God to provide just the right direction for the ongoing leadership and growth of the ministry.	For the Lord to give growth and fruit to our choir & orchestra ministries.	For the Lord to give growth and fruit to our A/V and tech ministry, and for Justin as he works part-time in these areas.	For the Lord to give growth and fruit to our praise team.	For the Lord to specifically raise up worshippers and musicians from our next generations.	For God to work through in and through our team in a powerful way during Sunday worship.
Spirit & Truth	Loving Teamwork	Kingdom Blend	Creative Excellence	Intentionality	Responsiveness	Authentic Humility
For our teams to be filled with the Spirit, grounded in biblical truth, and growing in fellowship. John 4:24, Col 3:16	For our teams to grow in love for God and one another while serving together. 1 Cor 13:1-8, Eph 4:1-3	For our church to seek the good of one another as we aim for worship styles that reflect our diverse congregation. Col 3:16, Rom 12:10	For God to grow us in our ministry giftedness that we might honor God and inspire others. Psalm 33:3, 1 Chr 15:22	For us to cooperate with the Spirit of God in choosing and learning songs. Psalms 120-134	For our church to glorify God with enthusiastic response to who He is and what He has done. Psalm 63:3-4, Psalm 100	For our teams to recognize our utter dependence on God and to carry ourselves with Christlike humility. Psalm 32, Mark 7:6-7