



THE ROAD TO CALVARY

WALKING WITH THE REAL JESUS

DAY 12 DEVOTIONAL

JESUS' FINAL LESSON

MARK 11:20-13:37

Jesus never shied away from the hot topics of his day, but he also never let various factions frame the discussion for him. That's because, despite all the intellectual and religious arguments the experts made about following God's law, many missed the heart of it. Jesus saw the bigger picture, and He was at the center of it. He knew the driving force of the universe, and the primary reason it was created was love.

But not just any love. This was the unconditional, relentless, selfless love of God himself. And there are only two correct ways to respond to it, each connected to the other: to love him in return with everything in us and to overflow with that love toward other people.

Since pride is the enemy of that love, God is drawn to the humble. And since faith is the ultimate response of humility to the all-powerful God of love, he is drawn to faith. If you want to be close to God, that's the key: humble faith rooted in love. It's the heart of our relationship with him, the heart of our relationship with others, and the fulfillment of our purpose. A life built on that foundation will flourish for all of eternity.

Lord, may my whole life flow from the fountain of your deep, abiding, life-giving love. Immerse me in your love, let it fill my soul, and give me opportunities to share it with many. Amen.