

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Daily Devotions

Mark 11:1-11

Day 1: Greatness Redefined: The Cross as the True Crown

True greatness is not found in self-assertion or dominance, but in the self-giving love that Jesus displayed on the cross. While the world often celebrates those who rise to power through strength or ambition, Jesus chose a path of humility and sacrifice. His entry into Jerusalem was not marked by military might, but by riding on a humble colt, signaling a kingdom built on surrender rather than conquest.

The cross is not only the means by which we are saved, but also the pattern for how we are called to live. To follow Jesus is to embrace this paradox: that real victory comes through laying down our lives, and true honor is found in serving others. As we look to the cross, we are invited to let go of our own ideas of greatness and to adopt the way of Christ—the way of sacrificial love.

Read: Philippians 2:8-9

Reflection: Where in your life are you tempted to seek recognition or control? How might you choose the way of humble, cross-shaped love instead today?

Day 2: Where Justice and Love Embrace

At the cross, God's justice and love are perfectly united. Justice demands that wrongdoing be addressed, but love desires restoration and mercy. In Jesus, God does not ignore the reality of sin or sweep it under the rug. Instead, He takes the penalty upon Himself, satisfying justice while extending forgiveness to all who trust in Him.

This means we can face our own failures honestly, without fear or denial. The cross assures us that our sin is not the end of the story—God's love is greater, and His justice has been satisfied. We are invited to bring our brokenness to Him, knowing that we are fully known and fully loved.

Read: Psalm 103:10-11

Reflection: Is there a failure or regret you've been hiding from God or yourself? What would it look like to bring it honestly to Jesus, trusting both His justice and His love?

Day 3: Surrender Over Self-Improvement

The call of Jesus is not to try harder or become better by our own strength, but to surrender our self-rule and trust Him as King. Faith is not a one-time decision, but a daily transfer of ownership—letting go of our need to control and inviting Christ to reign in every area of our lives.

Repentance and belief are ongoing rhythms, not just moments in the past. Each day, we are invited to turn from fear, pride, or self-reliance, and to say, “Your will be done.” Real allegiance to Jesus is seen in the small, daily choices to trust Him, even when it’s uncomfortable or costly.

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6

Reflection: What is one area of your life where you still try to hold control (apart from Christ)? What practical step can you take today to surrender this to Jesus’ leadership?

Day 4: Belonging That Sends Us on Mission

To belong to Jesus is to be swept up into His mission. The church is not a social club or a place to consume spiritual goods, but a living outpost of God’s kingdom in the world. Every act of service, every word of encouragement, every ministry—these are ways we participate in advancing Christ’s reign and displaying His character to those around us.

Our gifts and efforts are not about building our own reputation, but about helping others take their next step toward Jesus. As ambassadors of the King, we are called to live with purpose, seeing our neighborhoods, workplaces, and relationships as places where God’s kingdom can break in through us.

Read: 1 Peter 2:9

Reflection: Who in your daily life might need to experience the love and hope of King Jesus through you? What is one way you can intentionally serve or encourage them this week?

Day 5: Serving from the Overflow of Being Served

Our call to serve others is rooted in the reality that Jesus first served us. We do not serve to earn God’s favor or prove our worth; we serve because we have already received His mercy and love. The more deeply we grasp what Christ has done for us, the more freely we are able to give ourselves away in love, even when it is costly or inconvenient.

When service feels hard or unnoticed, we remember that the cross came before the crown. Every act of humble obedience echoes the heart of our Servant-King, and nothing done in love is ever wasted. Joyful service flows from a heart that knows it has been served by Jesus Himself.

Read: Mark 10:45

Reflection: Think of a specific way Jesus has served you. How can you let that experience shape the way you serve someone else today, especially if it costs you something?