

DAY 3: A CALL TO AUTHENTIC FAITH

After the powerful moments of Palm Sunday and the cleansing of the temple, Jesus didn't leave Jerusalem. He remained there and began to teach. His words weren't just encouraging or easy to receive; He challenged both the religious leaders and the people to rethink what their faith really looked like.

Imagine the scene: the temple, once crowded with noise and activity, was now quiet and filled with anticipation. People gathered, ready to listen. But Jesus wasn't there to simply comfort the crowd. He was calling them into something deeper. He called them into a faith that was real and lived out. He didn't just teach about God; He invited people to align their lives with what they claimed to believe.

MATTHEW 22:34-40

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’

Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”

Jesus used this moment to bring clarity to the complexity of religion. The Pharisees had created an intricate system of rules and rituals, but He pointed directly to the heart of it all: LOVE. Love God. Love others. Simple in words, yet transformative in practice.

Even now, it's easy to get caught up in religious routines such as going to church, reading the Bible, or checking spiritual “to-do” lists. But Jesus calls us beyond the motions. He calls us to live out the transformation that He's made in our hearts.



Authentic faith isn't just about following rules. It's about loving God with your whole being and loving others as yourself. When we do this, everything else falls into place. Jesus said, "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." This reminds us that every choice we make, from serving others to daily decisions, should flow from love.

REFLECT

Are your actions reflecting your faith and love for others? Are there areas of your life where your words and your actions don't match? Ask God to help you live out your beliefs authentically, whether in your relationships, your time, or how you prioritize Him each day.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for showing me the heart of true faith. Teach me to love You fully and to love others as You love them. Help me live out my faith in practical ways that honor You, and guard me from getting caught up in empty religious routines. Show me how to love others better around me. Amen.