MARK & FRIENDS

A House of Prayer for All Nations: Reflecting the Love of Jesus

Monday, November 16, 2026 | Ministry Package V5.1
Host: Mark Burns | Speaker: Pastor Jason Epperson

Program Summary

Pastor Jason Epperson of CU Church joins Mark & Friends through a message from Mark 11. Following Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the fig tree and the clearing of the temple become searching pictures of outward appearance, inward reality, and barriers to worship. Jason emphasizes that the court of the Gentiles was meant to welcome people from the nations, yet had become a place of commerce and self-interest. He asks believers to reflect Jesus' love through honesty about their struggles and gratitude for God's work in their lives. Stories about restored relationships, encouragement during a child's illness, and freedom from addiction illustrate the hope that can be shared through transparent community. The challenge is personal and practical: set aside selfish agendas, make room for others, and help them discover the grace, mercy, and goodness of Jesus.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus' words about a house of prayer for all nations challenge barriers that keep people from encountering God.
- The fig tree and the warning about whitewashed tombs invite examination of outward appearance and inward reality.
- Honesty about my need for grace can help another person find courage and hope.
- Sharing what God has done in my life can point someone else toward His faithfulness.
- Hospitality is the responsibility of the whole church, not only its pastor or worship team.
- People with different backgrounds and difficult histories need to encounter Christ's love through His people.
- My preferences, convenience, and sense of ownership can become obstacles to welcoming someone else.
- Ask whether my words and actions help people discover Jesus or get in their way.

Scripture References

- Mark 11:11-19 - Main passage: Jesus surveys the temple, addresses the fruitless fig tree, clears the temple, and teaches about prayer for all nations. Mark 11:17 is read at the opening.
- Isaiah 56:7 - The house of prayer for all nations, quoted by Jesus in Mark 11:17.
- Jeremiah 7:11 - The den of robbers language recalled in Jesus' temple teaching.
- Matthew 23:27-28 - Whitewashed tombs: outward beauty and inward hypocrisy, quoted in the message.

- John 2:13-16 - The account involving a whip and the removal of animals from the temple, referenced alongside the Mark passage.
- John 15:4-5 - Remaining in the vine and bearing fruit; echoed in Jason’s illustration.
- James 3:10-12 - The contrast between fresh and salt water, echoed in the message about consistency.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7 - Treasure in jars of clay, referenced in the discussion of weakness and God’s glory.
- Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory, quoted in the message.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - Salvation by grace; a companion passage for the message’s emphasis on the grace everyone needs.

Quote of the Day

“Am I helping people discover Jesus or am I getting in their way?” — Mark Burns

Broadcast Notes

Host: Mark Burns. Featured speaker: Pastor Jason Epperson of CU Church. Main passage: Mark 11:11-19, with Mark 11:17 read at the opening. This message follows the previous Monday’s focus on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the call to praise. Jason uses two imagined family journeys to the temple to illustrate how exploitation and exclusion can obscure God’s welcome. Those stories and his descriptions of Jesus’ thoughts are sermon illustrations rather than additional details narrated in Mark. He also shares pastoral stories of hope, restoration, and support during illness. The complete supplied spoken transcript is retained with punctuation and clear transcription corrections; the opening theme is identified by a musical cue.

Practical Applications

- Read Mark 11:11-19 and ask God to show me where my outward appearance and inward life do not agree.
- Pray for people beyond my usual circle, remembering Jesus’ words about all nations.
- Welcome someone I do not know at church; make room, learn a name, and listen without making assumptions.
- Ask whether a preference about seating, clothing, music, or convenience is keeping me from loving someone well.
- Share an appropriate story of God’s faithfulness with someone who needs hope, while respecting other people’s privacy.
- Be honest about my need for grace instead of presenting a flawless image.
- Support a person facing a difficult season with prayer, a listening ear, and a practical act of care.
- Before I speak or act, ask: Will this help someone see the love of Jesus?

Today's Challenge

Make room for one person this week. Set aside a preference or convenience so you can welcome, listen to, or serve that person. Pray first, then take one concrete step that helps them experience the love of Jesus through you.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming me through Jesus and meeting me with grace and mercy. Search my heart for hypocrisy, selfishness, and the desire to protect my own comfort. Help me be honest about my need for You and grateful for the ways You have worked in my life. Keep my preferences from becoming barriers to someone else. Teach me to pray for people from every background, to listen with compassion, and to make room for the person I might otherwise overlook. Let my words and actions reflect Your love and help someone discover the goodness of Jesus. In His name, Amen.

About Today's Speaker

Pastor Jason Epperson

CU Church | Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Pastor Jason Epperson of CU Church teaches from the Gospel of Mark in this Monday series on Mark & Friends. In today’s message, he invites listeners to reflect the love of Jesus through an honest faith, a welcoming community, and practical care for others.

Featured on Mark & Friends - Listen anytime under the Mark & Friends tab at GreatNewsRadio.org or WLUJ.org.

About Today's Host

Mark Burns

Host of Mark & Friends

Mark Burns is General Manager of the WLUJ Family of Stations and Great News Radio Network and host of Mark & Friends. With decades of experience in Christian radio and ministry, he presents Scripture-centered programs intended to educate, edify, and evangelize.

Additional Ministry Resources

- Mark & Friends Program Resource Library
- Great News Radio
- WLUJ
- Mark 11 - read the chapter
- Isaiah 56:7 - a house of prayer for all nations

Complete Proofread Transcript

[Opening theme: “We’re Glad You’re Here.”]

Reading from Mark chapter 11, verse 17 My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. That was Mark chapter 11, verse 17.

What could make Jesus so angry that he would overturn tables in the temple? It's Monday, November 16th, 2026. And welcome to Mark and Friends. Today, Pastor Jason Epperson of CU Church takes us into Mark chapter 11, where we'll discover what stirred Jesus's anger and what it reveals about his extraordinary love for people.

Here's Pastor Jason. So last week, Jesus comes in on this donkey, right? He comes in a conquering king, humble and meek. And as he comes in, everyone's shouting, Hosanna, Hosanna.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Last week, we talked about that our purpose, the reason God desired that praise was not because he's a narcissist in the sky that just wants to hear how good he is. The reason he wants you to praise is because you were created to praise.

Like he wants you to live your life praising who he is because that's who we were created to be. He created us to pour out his affection on us, and he created you to pour out his affection on you because we were created in his image. And so he comes into this place.

Everyone's shouting out praises. He walks in. In this moment, he walks into the temple.

Last week, we ended with this part, and we're starting there. He walked into the temple, and in the end of this passage, it said this week, you remember? He said, and then he looked around. Well, when he looked around, what he would have saw in the court of Gentiles in that moment, and we know this because of what's about to happen is what he saw in the court of Gentiles obviously frustrated him a little bit.

He walked into the place where he designed it so anyone who doesn't know him could come into that place and discover who he is. Does that make sense? It would be like me as a father if my kids went away and they forgot how much I love them, and the first room that they're going to walk in when they enter into my house was had one purpose, and that purpose is to help my kids remember how much I love them, and so that's the court of Gentiles. That's this room, y'all, and so when Jesus walked into this place, what he saw was all these different tables of people setting up ways for them to sell, for them to transfer money, for them to do things to basically manipulate, steal, exploit people for their own benefit.

It basically became a place of self-help. It became a place of helping people feel purer about themselves or better, and so Jesus walked in, and just imagine he looks around this massive court of Gentiles in a time where there's millions of people around, and he so desperately wants them to know how much he loves them, and when they walk into the place that's supposed to be the image of God, what they see is that. In this passage today, you're going to see very clearly how Jesus feels about that.

I think one thing for us as we think about this passage is it shouldn't escape you that we call this room our court of Gentiles for a reason. Because your purpose and my purpose is to be the image of God so the world can discover how much he loves them, and in this passage today, what you're going to find is the frustration that Jesus has with it. Like, the house's purpose, the court of Gentiles' purpose is to represent God, but instead of that, it did different things.

In some ways, it's like this. When people walk in this room on a Sunday, let's skip away from Israel for a second. The room's, it's not dust on the ground.

There's not money changers. There's just us. But when someone walks in these doors, our prayer is that they experience Jesus.

And not all the weight of experiencing Jesus is on my shoulders, bro. Not all the weight of experiencing Jesus is on a worship team. In fact, that's just having like, that's having them experience just the pinky finger of Jesus.

But are you with me? Like, I just want you to understand what we're talking about today. It just matters. But if every single one of us will be the image of God by denying our own stupidity, selfishness, and the thought that this is our room and not theirs, then they can actually experience the wholeness of God.

Here's the cool thing. Lots of you have come into this place in the last nine years, and this is a word I've heard from thousands of people. It just felt like home.

Well, the reason it feels like home is because you were created to be in the image of Jesus. And there's some people that walk in this room, and I pray that everyone thinks it feels like home. And it's not because there's a welcome mat.

It's because we are home. We are the representatives of Him. And when people walk into this place, if they experience Him, no matter what color of skin we have, no matter how tall, how short, how skinny, how husky, how whatever it is, if they can experience that, then their lives will be transformed.

Jesus walks in to this court, and they can't see Him. That's where we find Him today. It starts here.

Jesus, He went home that night. He went home that night. He's crashing on Mary and Martha and Lazarus's couch.

Okay, He's crashing there. And as He's crashing there, He wakes up the next morning. He heads in, and all night long, He's thinking, what am I going to do? What am I going to say? He's all worked up because it's like, this is the one place at the Passover they can experience Me.

This is the one place that when I'm gone, I want them to be able to come and experience Me. And they can't even see Me because of the level of selfishness of religious people. They can't even see Me because they're so concerned with their own agendas, their own affiliations, that they just don't, they're just not loving like I created them to love.

And they can't see Me. So all night long, it's like, He's got a meeting the next morning. He knows what He has to say.

Are you with me? Maybe I'm the only one that struggles to sleep sometimes. He wakes up the next morning, and the brother skips breakfast. He's like, let's roll.

And He comes into the city, and this is what it says. On the following day, when they came from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf.

Now a fig tree in leaf, when fig trees had leaves on them, usually that also meant they had figs on them. And it says this, He went to see if He could find anything on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

And He said to it, may no one ever eat fruit from you again, and disciples heard it. So Jesus curses the fig tree. Now before you bag on Jesus for cursing a fig tree, most of you have a Christmas tree in your house that someone cut down, right? So we're okay.

We're just gonna smile. But you know what the cool thing is about this fig tree? We still talk about this fig tree. This fig tree has been known since this moment.

Why is Jesus so upset? Because this is why Jesus is so upset. People will never discover the goodness and the grace of God if we're not willing to be honest with who we are. If we paint the picture of I got leaves and I got fruit, and you got lots of leaves, but you ain't got no fruit, then you ain't attached to the vine.

If you've got salt water coming in from your mouth, but you tell everyone you're a fresh water, Matthew says it this way. Throw this on the screen. I want you to read this.

It says this in Matthew. This is Jesus talking. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Basically, this is Jesus in Matthew 23 saying, we come into the Passover and you wash all the tombs on the hillside. So when people walk in, they see the tombs over there, like, man, Jerusalem is beautiful.

And they cover these tombs in white and it looks incredible, but on the inside is dead stuff. And it's like someone walking in this room and all of us just paint ourselves up really pretty. And my life is great.

But on the inside, I'm a hot mess. When the reality is, if you're a hot mess, it's okay to be a hot mess. We're all sometimes a mess.

See, in order for us to be the image of God, we have to be open and honest with what our image really looks like. How does this play out in the church? Let me just tell you a couple of simple ways. It plays out in the church because I know lots of you in your 70s, 80s, and 90s.

You're my friends. I eat with you sometimes. It's a good time.

And you've told me the stories over the years of, man, in my 20s and 30s, I about left him. Or I about left her. Or they did this and they did this.

But God healed our marriage. And now we walk into a church holding hands and all the 20 and 30-year-olds think we'll never make it. But I can sit down with that 20 and 30 and 40-year-old couple and they can walk into my office or I can sit with them in a coffee shop.

And as they sit there, and they both don't know if they can do it. And they are looking for me just to say, okay, let's just move forward. And I look at them and I put my hands on their knees and I say, hey, you know what? God can heal this.

There's hope. Well, how do you know there's hope? I said, do you want the list of names? And because someone can believe there's hope, because there's a God of hope, God brings hope to the relationship. And there's some of you that think, well, because I've been divorced or because this has happened in my life, I can never be the same.

I can never do the same things again. And I could give you another list of names of people who've lost a spouse or people who've been divorced from a spouse that I see God doing tremendous things in their world

now. And they're serving and they're leading and they're loving in the church.

And there's hope. This last week, we had a young mom whose child, like super young child, child's under a year old, baby's sick, baby's sick, baby's sick. They run to the hospital, they go to the hospital.

They're not from here, but there are people. Are you with me? They're part of the group of people over the last nine years. They're a part of this family, they moved away.

And now they're trying to find church homes, but they're just bouncing, but they watch us online every week. And this young mom brought her child to the doctor, her little sweet girl to the doctor, finds out the child has bacterial meningitis. And so they end up in the emergency department.

She's all alone, her husband's with the other kids, and she's all alone. And she reaches out to Lacey and I. She's talking to us on the phone. We're praying with her on the phone.

And Lacey gets off the phone with her. And she says, Jason, she's just really discouraged. I don't know if I need to hop in the car and drive there to check on her.

Like, I don't know what to do. And so Lacey said, I need to pray about it. I need to talk to the image of God.

I need to talk to God so I can find out how I can be God. I can be the image of God. Does that make sense? Lacey's not God, I didn't say that wrong.

Although she's closer to God than me. But as Lacey then talks with the father, the father's like, what she needs is someone to shake her shoulders a little bit and say, hey, there's a God of all creation who can heal your daughter. And then Lacey's reminded that three days earlier, there was a family from Louisville, Kentucky, that was literally in our living room on Saturday and Sunday.

They came to visit us. And when they came to visit us, their little daughter's running around and she's 10 years old now. And when she was eight months old, the same age as this little girl, she had bacterial meningitis and everyone thought she was gonna die.

And now she has no complications and she's running all over our house. So when my wife called her, she says, hey, I need to tell you a story. She tells her the story of hope of another mom who was in the hospital nine or 10 years ago and how God had done that in that moment.

Now, we don't always know what God is gonna do, but now this child is doing great. This child is still in the NICU, but he's doing better. Family, are you with me? When we can be transparent, and it's not just transparent of our brokenness, it's transparent of how God has done things in our life.

It's like when Tony gets up here last week and he shares that he had trouble finding God when he was addicted to drugs and he struggled to connect to God when he was constantly filling himself with alcohol. One of the ways he connects to God is living clean allows him to connect to the God of all creation. And anyone in this room that's ever struggled with an addiction is like me too.

Hey, family, it tells in the Bible the word jars of clay and the glory of God rests in us. And if we don't ever allow our cracks to be seen, then sometimes it's hard to see the glory. This is another verse I just gotta say.

For all of us have sinned and we all fall short of the glory of God. Y'all, listen to me. None of you are better.

I mean, you might be better looking than me, most of you, but you're not better. You're not bad. Like, listen, God is good.

We're saved by grace. Hallelujah. Some of us have been on the journey longer, but that doesn't mean I'm closer to God.

He is literally dwelling within anyone that says dwell within me. He dwells within them. If we can live our lives, recognizing that we need grace, we need love, we need mercy.

And then we can share that same kind of love, that same kind of grace, that same kind of mercy. Guess what? We're not a fig tree that's false promoting. Okay, now I'm done preaching for about 10 seconds.

Here we go, 15. And they came to Jerusalem, he entered the temple, and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple and overturned tables and the money changers in the seats of those who sold pigeons. So Jesus walks in.

I can just imagine him sitting outside, weaving the whip. You with me? Why is Jesus so upset? Do you know how upset I would be if someone's standing in the way of someone I love from understanding how much I love them? Jesus comes in and he overturns the tables. He takes the whip.

He doesn't whip people. It tells us in the book of John that he actually whips the animals as the animals went out and everything got cleared out of the court of Gentiles. Why would he do that? I'm going to give you two different stories.

These are like allegories or parables. And I'm going to end with one of these. But this is what I mean.

A family, let's just pretend a family, a Jewish family who lived three hours away. They're way up north. They'd never been to the temple for Passover and they bring all their young kids and it's a mother and it's a husband, it's a father.

And they go on this journey and they saved money for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks. And as they saved all their money to go to the Passover because they just couldn't wait for their kids to celebrate the day that God turned them into a nation and rescued them from slavery. They couldn't wait to walk into the temple and experience the glory of God.

And so they go on this journey and day after day. And as they're on this journey with their family and they're sharing with their family and they're loving their family and this dad and this mom are sharing with their kids of how awesome it's going to be when they walk into the temple, when they walk into the court of Gentiles and they just can literally feel the presence of God. And as they're on this journey and they're talking about it and they're praying through it and they're walking through it and they're singing the songs because they're songs that they come into when they're coming in a temple.

We've talked about that all summer long but they would sing their songs about the deliverance of Egypt and the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Like all these songs and they walk in and I can just imagine a dad and a mom talking with their three kids and walking in and they're all holding hands and they walk into this court of Gentiles like, hey, this is going to be so awesome. And the mom's like, hey, we forgot to buy the pigeon.

We forgot to buy the sacrifice. Oh, that's right. So then they go back out and they buy just outside the court of Gentiles.

There's a place they're selling pigeons. And so they take their week salary that they've been saving and they buy this pigeon and they take this pigeon and they walk in and the daughter is like, we really have to give the pigeon away? Yeah, sacrifice hurts sometimes. And then they walk this pigeon in and they walk in and as

soon as they walk into this court of Gentiles, all they see is commerce.

All they see is people and people and it's like an auction. And the dad's like, hey, we need to go over here. And as they move towards this line, they're saying, hey, do you have the sacrifice? Well, yes, we have the sacrifice.

Okay, here's the line. You've got to pay someone over here to check if the sacrifice is going to be okay. It's a real thing.

That's what they did. And so they stand in this line all together as a family as they hold this pigeon and they stand in this line so someone then can observe whether this pigeon is worthy of the sacrifice. And they get to the front and say, hey, it's going to be this much temple money in order for us to check this pigeon.

And they say, well, we don't have that. All we have is denarii. And they go, well, there's another line.

And so then they go into another line and they take their money and they exchange their money so they can have temple money so someone can look and see if this pigeon is okay. And when they exchange their money, they're absolutely ripped off. It's like doing your exchange in an airport.

Don't do it there. And so in that moment, they're ripped off and the dad's like, it's okay, it's okay. It's like, yeah, this is the temple.

This is like, like God is here. And the kids are like, and so then they get back in line. They get to the front of the pigeon line again and they hand the pigeon.

And this person looks at the pigeon and say, no, this pigeon isn't a temple pigeon. This isn't going to work. We'll keep this pigeon.

You need to get in this line. You got to pay for this pigeon over here because the only sacrifice can be sold inside the temple. He's like, why didn't you tell us that? Well, sir, are you trying to disagree with us? No, no, no, no, sir, I'm good.

And so then he gets in this line and as he gets in this line, he literally sees the person who took his pigeon walk around the back of the court of Gentiles, walk up and throw the same pigeon he had in this case for all the pigeons that he's about to purchase. Then he walks to the front and the pigeon that he's about to buy is a month's salary versus a week's salary. And he buys it because he wants God to forgive him.

But instantly now he's thinking, God can only forgive me if, hey kids, I want you to discover who God is. This is where we go. Another story.

Just imagine with me a family coming from Egypt that's heard about the God of all creation. That's heard about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That's heard about the God that took the slaves out of Egypt.

That's heard about this God and they know about this temple in Jerusalem. They know about the God of all creation that was great, like that they'd studied the history and they knew that all of their gods, these Egyptian gods were literally flexed on by the God of all creation, this Yahweh God. And so this dad is raising his kids and he's super interested.

He's kind of seeking, trying to find out to be a God fearing person. He's interested. And so he takes his whole family like, hey, we're going to go to this place.

This one God, like the God of all creation, they say the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There's a place in his temple for us. There's a place in the temple of God that we can actually go into.

Yeah, they can't come into our temples because they're not like us, but we actually are welcomed in their temple. Like their God created an area called the court of Gentiles. Y'all, we're Gentiles.

Kids, let's roll. And it's not a three day journey for them. It's a three month journey.

And they're marching and they're walking and they're sacrificing all they have. And when they get there, he looks at his children. He looks at his wife as she's covered in her scarf.

And they walk into this place experience. They want to experience the glory of God. They want to experience the presence of God.

And they walk in and they literally are told, hey, if you're not purchasing something, you're not buying something. You don't behave this way. You don't talk this way.

Then get out. This is a place that everybody is welcome. That's why Jesus was angry.

Because when people stand in the way of people understanding his grace and love and mercy, it upsets them. The passage then goes on and says these words. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

This is what's happened. Jesus is flipping over the temple and all of a sudden there's these dudes carrying pigeons. They're doing a walkthrough.

Basically, the court of Gentiles has become their roadway to cut across town. And they're using, these Jewish people are using this area to cut across. And basically, they're taking the place that's supposed to be so sacred so anyone outside can discover.

Just imagine if they would have walked in and they would have heard people praising and loving and repenting and joy filled people. It's like, what? That would have been incredible. But they walk in and people are on the cut through.

And so Jesus is like, stop cutting through. Like, it's that practical. That's what he says.

Like, no, walk around. This place is the place of discovery. And he was teaching them, saying to them, this isn't it written that my house should be called a house of prayer for all the nations.

You guys catch that? For all the nations. But you've made it a den of robbers. There is thousands of people in Champaign-Urbana that do not know they are loved.

And we can paint them as our enemies. We can paint them with broad strokes that they disagree with us on issues and thoughts. But they have a father in heaven who is desperate for them to be welcomed.

For them to walk in these doors and know that they actually are loved and allow the spirit of God to lead them. They don't need to put on a certain shirt or a certain pair of shoes or dress a certain way or talk a certain way or believe a certain thing. They need to be in the presence of God like we need to be in the presence of God.

Because in the presence of God, we are made, we are transformed into his image. That's why every single week, every single week, I do the exact same thing. And I know three, four students are like, why does he say this every week? Because y'all, if we ever, ever get to the point that we think this is our room, our chair, our pastor, our church, we are no longer a representation of the kingdom of God.

We're no longer the image of God. And when that happens, people won't walk in and feel home. They'll walk in and have different experiences.

The only experience that matters is you walk in this place and the presence of God comes on you. And the way the presence of God comes on you is if we leave our presences at the door and the chief priests and the scribes heard and they were seeking a way to destroy him. And they feared him because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching.

Why is everyone astonished at his teaching? Because everyone wants to be home. All of us want to experience this thing called unfailing love. No matter how cold, how hard, how bitter, how angry, the only thing that breaks through those things is the overwhelming presence of a loving father.

And when evening came, they went out of the city. Jesus was upset and he was upset because one of his children, his creation, when they walked in, they couldn't see. You might say, well, they can see him in a sunset.

They can see him in a sunrise. They can see him in creation. Absolutely.

We see him all the time in creation. Why? Because we know he's the one that created it. Listen to me.

All of humanity has experienced the glory of God. They just don't attach it to God. But man, there's a lot of cool stuff in this world that all of us get to experience that's given from God.

But the church, like this room, this group of people, when they walk in this place and they experience his glory, they know it's not you and they know it's not me. They know there's something different and it has to come from this God that they talk about. And then guess what? When they surrender to God, when they understand who he is, then when they leave this place, when they see the sunset, they do the same thing we do.

Praise God. When they see the sunrise, they say, praise God. When someone is healed, they say, praise God.

Until then they're just like coincidence. Nice, cool, awesome. Family, it is our opportunity to be the image bearer of the king.

It's who we were created to be. And the way it happens is when we walk in this door and we walk out of this door and people are in our presence, they're overwhelmed with the presence of God. Why? Because you can't experience the presence of God when you're so consumed with your own presence.

Y'all, I just want you to know today, if you are loved by the creator of the universe and for those of you who know you are loved, have you experienced enough of that love to recognize, I've just got to tell somebody. And the way you tell them is by death to your presence and inviting his presence. It's giving up our seat.

It's giving up our desires. It's giving up our experience. So other people, when they walk in, like if I'm sitting at a table and a child who never comes to eat walks in the door, I will sit on the floor for my kid to be back at my table.

Because that's the image of God, family. So is Jesus angry? Yeah, he was. Praise God he was angry because he fights for us.

Let us be a place that represents his image. Oh, listening friend, what a powerful reminder. Jesus wants people to experience his love, his grace, and his goodness.

And he calls us to reflect that love to others. You've been listening to Pastor Jason Epperson of CU Church, sharing from Mark chapter 11. So here's a question worth pondering.

Am I helping people discover Jesus or am I getting in their way? Hear today's program again, read the transcript, and explore additional ministry resources under the Mark and Friends tab at greatnewsradio.org or wluj.org. Thanks for listening. Thanks for being a part of our radio listening family. This is Mark Burns with the Ministry of Great News Media.

God bless you and have a great day and night.