



The Cross

Clip No. 4 ... Study by Michael Catt
CATHOLIC STUDY GUIDE



- THE BURNING QUESTION:** Have you experienced God's unconditional love as shown through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ?
- SCENE SET-UP:** Frustrated with his wife's lack of response to "The Love Dare," Caleb Holt talks to his dad about his floundering marriage. Caleb eventually realizes that he can't truly love his wife because he hasn't yet received God's unconditional love in his life.
- SCENE SELECTION:** Scene 12 (What You Don't Have)
- TOPICS DISCUSSED:** Pride. Unconditional Love. The Cross. God's Love. Surrender. The Gospel.
- BACKGROUND INFO:** With his marriage falling apart, Caleb Holt clings to a shred of hope that things can change in his relationship with his wife. With help from his father, Caleb tries to win back the heart of his wife through "The Love Dare." Aggravated by his wife's lack of interest, Caleb is ready to give up on his marriage altogether.
- KEY STUDY SCRIPTURES:** John 3:16-17; Romans 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 1:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define the term "unconditional love."
2. Is it possible to love someone without condition? What does it look like?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God loves you unconditionally?
4. What hinders you from living abundantly in the unconditional love of God?
5. What hinders you from loving other people with the same abandon?

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
1 Corinthians 1:17-18 (NAB)

ANSWERING THE BURNING QUESTION: So, have you experienced God's unconditional love that enables you to love others in the same way? A. W. Tozer said, "We must do something about the cross, and one of two things only can we do—flee it or die upon it." The cross of Christ is divisive, yet it offers our only hope in a fallen world. We say we love everything from baseball to chocolate cake to Elvis. However, if we haven't experienced the love of God poured out in our hearts (see Romans 5:5), then we can't possibly begin to truly love the people around us. Life doesn't get any deeper than Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. His sacrifice obviously delivers us from sin's penalty and power. But Galatians 1:4 tells us that it also delivers us from worldly thinking and empowers us to live differently from this world's agenda—and that this world's agenda knows nothing about unconditional love. You'll never see a change in your marriage or in your broken relationships until you love the other person unconditionally. And you'll never be able to offer that kind of love until you've first experienced God's love for you.



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