

MAY 20

## “HE IS NEVER GOING TO WALK AWAY FROM US OR GIVE UP ON US.”

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### **READ**

*Mark 12:29-32, 1 John 4:7-11*

As earthly fathers, we know what it feels like to love a child so much. There is nothing they could do to make us turn away from them or never speak to them again. Sometimes in religion, God the Father has been painted in such a way that we think His mercy is temporary or conditional. Jesus taught about the fatherhood of God. He called the God that demanded righteousness throughout the Old Testament, “Your Heavenly Father.” This was a new concept. Jesus claimed that if we would love God with our whole hearts, we wouldn’t even “need” the Law. If we love God wholeheartedly, and our neighbor as ourselves, then we have kept the whole Law of God. We don’t get to heaven by keeping all the rules; it doesn’t even make us holier! Somehow, we just can’t get away from a legalistic idea of God: that He will bring up all our past sins and squash us like a bug. We cannot seem to comprehend that He is our Father! We must remind ourselves that in His fatherhood toward us, He is never going to walk away from us or give up on us. The fact is, our Heavenly Father loves us more than any earthly father ever could.

### **PRAY**

God, I will spend my days on this earth doing those two things: loving You and loving my neighbors. When I love You with all that I am, I will love my neighbor with all that You are. I receive Your love today and gladly share it with those You send my way.

*From May 2, 2010*