Fall Week 7 · October 31–November 1, 2026

Who's Your Jesus?

Matthew 26:1–16 · Pastor Larry Osborne · Message #74

The big idea: Everyone in this story met the same Jesus. Each one decided what he was worth.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Plain text	**Grey boxes and Leader Extras**
= your group's guide. Same questions your group has in their hands.	= for you only. Tips, extra questions and background your group doesn't see.

THIS WEEK IN 30 SECONDS

The passage

Two days before the cross. Matthew turns the camera from Jesus to the people around him: leaders plotting to kill him, a woman pouring a year's wages of perfume on his feet, disciples calling it a waste, and Judas walking out to sell him for thirty pieces of silver. Same Jesus. Very different responses.

Watch for

- **"The poor you will always have with you"** sounds like Jesus doesn't care. He's quoting Deuteronomy 15:11, which commands God's people to be open-handed toward the poor.
- **Money talk turning into budget talk:** Larry's point is bigger than a church budget.
- **"I'd never be a Judas."** Judas looked like the model disciple.

A win this week

Everyone leaves knowing Jesus is a **Savior, not a fixer**, and with **one way** they'll give him their first, not their leftovers, this week.

LISTEN: THIS WEEK'S LEADER PODCAST

Listen before group. About 15 minutes on the questions, the tricky moments and what to say when someone asks the hard one. Good for the drive over.

Scan the code or open the episode: share.transistor.fm/s/94e8d78d. Pass it on to your co-leader or host.

LEADER NOTES & LINKS

- **Social & Impact:** Holiday calendars fill fast. Pick a date for a social or an Impact Project now. **Social ideas** · **Impact Projects**
- **Leader podcast:** a walkthrough of the questions, the tricky moments and what to say. **northcoastleaders.transistor.fm**
- **Monthly leader email:** behind-the-scenes news, stories and a recipe or two. **Subscribe**
- **Tell us:** a question, a win, or something great about someone in your group? **Send it here**
- **Post attendance: northcoastchurch.com/attendance**
- **Baptisms in November:** If anyone in your group has been thinking about it, this is the month to point them to. Dates by campus: **northcoastchurch.com/baptisms**.

SERMON NOTES: OUTLINE

Who's Your Jesus? Will you crown him or kill him?

To the religious leaders, Jesus was a **THREAT** to be **SILENCED**. · To Judas, Jesus was a **DISAPPOINTMENT** to be **BETRAYED**. · To the woman, he was a **SAVIOR** to be **EXTRAVAGANTLY WORSHIPED**.

Passages: Matthew 26:1–16 · Mark 14:3–9 · John 12:1–8 · John 10:17–18 · Deuteronomy 15:11 · Matthew 23:5–7 · Psalm 73:12–17 · Proverbs 29:7 · Mark 8:36 · Exodus 21:32 · Zechariah 11:12–13 · 2 Samuel 24:24 · Revelation 4:11 · Psalm 29:1–2 · Mark 12:28–31

THE GROUP GUIDE *Exactly what your group has, with your leader notes*

These questions are designed to help groups discuss the weekend teaching while building relationships with each other and applying God's Word to our lives.

WARM UP

1. What is something you've splurged on that someone else might consider a waste of money but was worth every penny to you? (Or vice versa!)

> LEADER NOTE
> **Tip:** One person's splurge is another person's waste. That's this whole passage. The disciples looked at the same jar of perfume the woman did and saw something completely different.
> **If the room is quiet:** Go first with yours. The smaller and sillier, the better.

2. Larry talked about three different responses to Jesus. What stood out to you most from this weekend's message?

> LEADER NOTE
> **Tip:** Some people will name the woman, some Judas, some the line about the poor. Listen for who heard themselves in the story and who heard someone else. That tells you where to slow down later.
> **Optional extra:** Try this week's Kinship Question (see Leader Extras).

KNOW IT

Re-read Matthew 26:1–16.

> LEADER NOTE
> **Reading:** Sixteen verses, three scenes: the plot (vv1–5), the dinner in Bethany (vv6–13) and Judas (vv14–16). Give each scene a different reader. Notice the word "then" in verses 3 and 14. Both scenes start as a response to Jesus.

1. In the passage, we see several people respond to Jesus in very different ways in the most pivotal week of His life. If you could ask Jesus or anyone in the passage one question, what would you want to know?

> LEADER NOTE
> **Tip:** Most questions land in one of three places: Judas ("Why?"), the woman ("What did you know?") or the disciples ("Whose side were you on?"). Follow whichever one comes up. It leads straight into question 2.
> **Aha:** Jesus had told the disciples three times that he was going to die (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33–34). The woman seems to be the only one who took him at his word. Jesus says she did it "to prepare me for burial" (v12).
> **Aha:** Look at who's really in charge. Jesus says he'll be crucified at Passover (v2). The leaders say "not during the festival" (v5). It happens at Passover. See John 10:18.

2. Larry pointed out that the three responses to Jesus in this passage are still common today. What do you think it looks like to silence Jesus, betray Him, and worship Him with extravagance in today's world? Which response do you think is most common?

> LEADER NOTE
> **Tip:** Larry's version of silencing Jesus isn't burning Bibles. It's skipping the parts we don't agree with, or changing our theology to match our behavior. Betrayal starts when we decide Jesus exists to fix our problems.
> **Read:** John 11:48 (the leaders were afraid of losing their place) · John 12:4–6 (why Judas cared about the money).
> **Careful:** "Which is most common?" can turn into a conversation about other people. Bring it back: "Which one is easiest for people like us?"

3. The disciples saw the woman's expensive gift as a waste, but Jesus called it a beautiful thing. What do you think made her sacrifice so meaningful? What are some ways people might honor Jesus today that others could consider wasteful?

> LEADER NOTE
> **Tip:** Mark says the perfume was worth more than 300 denarii (Mark 14:5), about a year's pay for a laborer. She saw two things the disciples missed: Jesus was about to die, and nothing was too much for him.
> **Read:** Deuteronomy 15:11, the verse Jesus quotes in verse 11. It's a command to be open-handed toward the poor.
> **Careful:** The second half can turn into a critique of church spending. Let people be honest, then ask: "What would extravagant look like for you?" Larry's point was both/and. Jesus cared about the poor (Proverbs 29:7; Luke 10:25–37).

SHARE IT

1. The disciples struggled to understand the woman's expression of worship. Have you ever seen someone express their faith or worship Jesus in a way that surprised you, challenged you, or was different from what you're used to? Why do you think it was surprising or challenging to you?

> LEADER NOTE
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> **Tip:** Notice who complained in this story. Not the Pharisees; there weren't any in the house. It was Jesus' own disciples (v8). The critics were insiders.
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> **Careful:** This can slide into worship-style preferences: hands up, loud, quiet, old hymns. Steer it to the heart: "What did that person seem to know about Jesus?"

2. Larry described three different responses to Jesus. Have there been times in your relationship with Jesus when you've related to one or more of them?

> LEADER NOTE
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> **Tip:** The Judas response is the hardest to admit and probably the most common: Jesus didn't do what I expected. Asaph almost walked away for the same reason in Psalm 73, until he "entered the sanctuary of God" (v17).
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> **Read:** Psalm 73:13–17.
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> **Careful:** Someone may be in a season of disappointment with God right now. Don't fix it. Thank them for saying it, and pray for them before you close.

LIVE IT

1. Larry explained that the first and best has always belonged to God. Beyond money, what are some practical ways we can give Jesus our first and best?

> LEADER NOTE
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> **Tip:** "Beyond money" gives people a way in. Don't let it become a way out. Larry was direct about giving, so if someone brings up money, let it stay on the table. Other answers: the first hour of the day, your best energy instead of what's left after work, the first call when something good happens.
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> **Read:** 2 Samuel 24:24. David wouldn't give God something that cost him nothing.

2. After hearing this message, is there anything you feel challenged to do differently in your worship of God?

> LEADER NOTE
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> **Make it concrete:** Each person names one thing they'll do differently this week. Write them down (with their OK) and ask next week.
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> **Close:** Read Revelation 4:11 together, then pray.

You don't have to have every answer. Create safety, guide reflection, point people to Jesus. **Thank you for leading.**

LEADER EXTRAS *Not in your group's guide*

OPTIONAL EXTRA: KINSHIP QUESTION

Who would you love one more meal with? What would you talk about?

How: Ask it after the Warm Up. Go around the circle, 60–90 seconds each, and say out loud that passing is fine. It isn't about the sermon, and it doesn't need to be. It just sits next to a dinner where one woman seemed to know it was one of the last meals with Jesus.

OPTIONAL EXTRA: MEMORIZE IT

Matthew 26:10 "She has done a beautiful thing to me."

How: Say it together to close the night and once more to open next week.

BE READY: WHAT TO SAY

"Didn't Jesus care about the poor?"

Yes. In verse 11 he's quoting Deuteronomy 15:11, which goes on to command God's people to be open-handed toward the poor. He isn't dismissing them. He's saying this moment, with him, won't come again.

"What changes when you read verse 11 next to Deuteronomy 15:11?"

"Isn't this just a sermon about giving to the church?"

Larry was direct about money, and it's fine to say so. But the woman wasn't funding a budget. She was saying Jesus was worth everything she had.

"What would first, not leftovers, look like for you?"

"I'd never betray Jesus."

Judas looked like a model disciple: one of the Twelve, trusted with the money, sent out to heal and drive out demons. It started with wanting Jesus to be something he wasn't.

"When has Jesus not done what you wanted?"

"God hasn't fixed my situation."

Don't argue, and don't rush to an answer. Asaph felt the same way (Psalm 73). Jesus is our Savior, not our fixer, and that's hard to hear when you're hurting.

"What's been hardest about waiting?" Then pray for them.

SET THE ROOM

Bookmark Deuteronomy 15:11 and John 12:4–6 before group. Both come up, and having someone ready to read them saves a scramble. Think about your own answer to Share It 2 ahead of time. You'll want to go first.

GO DEEPER: FOR YOUR PREP

Who's really in control?

Jesus names the day: Passover, two days away (v2). The leaders want a different day: "not during the festival" (v5). It happens at Passover anyway. "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18).

Dinner at a leper's house

Bethany was under two miles from the Temple, about a 40-minute walk. Simon the Leper (v6) couldn't have hosted a dinner while he still had the disease. Many commentators think Jesus had healed him.

Who was the woman?

Matthew and Mark don't name her. John does: Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (John 12:1–3). This is a different event from the anointing in Luke 7:36–50, which happens in Galilee at a Pharisee's house.

A year's wages in a jar

Mark calls it pure nard worth more than 300 denarii (Mark 14:3–5). A denarius was a day's pay for a laborer (Matthew 20:2). She broke the jar, so there was no saving the rest for later.

"Why this waste?"

The Greek word for waste is apoleia. It also means destruction. In John 17:12 Jesus uses the same word for Judas: "the one doomed to destruction."

Judas kept the money bag

John says Judas objected loudest, "not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief" (John 12:6). He was the group's treasurer, and he helped himself.

Thirty pieces of silver Exodus 21:32 sets thirty shekels of silver as the payment when an ox kills a slave. Zechariah 11:12–13 names the same price, and Matthew picks it up later (27:9–10). It was about four months' pay for a day laborer.	**A gift that cost something** When David needed land for an altar, Araunah offered it free, oxen included. David refused: "I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24).	**Remembered everywhere** Jesus said what she did would be told "wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world" (v13). Two thousand years later, your group is keeping that promise.