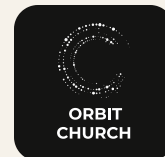


Don't Trade Like Judas

2025-12-07 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Matthew 26

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Judas traded Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Pastor Matt closed the money series by admitting the trade is rarely that obvious in our own lives. He has watched God provide for years and still catches himself, every year, seeing the silver and forgetting the Savior. Whatever we hold back from God is the exact thing keeping God at a distance. And surrender is not loss, because God does not waste what he is given.

To get started

- What is something you traded away and later wished you had kept?

Looking back at the message

He put himself in Judas's place rather than above him. Keep that posture.

- 1 Judas traded Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and Pastor Matt admitted he catches himself in a smaller version of the same trade every year: seeing the silver and forgetting the Savior. Why does it matter that he included himself?
- 2 Pastor Matt used a C.S. Lewis picture: a child happy to keep playing in a sandbox while being offered the ocean. Where do you settle for the sandbox?
- 3 The Bible never really explains why Judas did it. Does that silence make him easier or harder to understand? Why? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 26:14-16 aloud. It is three verses and it is very plain.

- 4 Read Matthew 26:14-16. What question does Judas ask, and what does he do afterwards?
- 5 Judas had been with Jesus for three years and had seen everything. What does the text say changed?
- 6 The passage records an exact price. What does naming a number do to how the scene reads?
- 7 Read Matthew 26:6-13, right before this. What is the contrast between the woman with the perfume and Judas? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Money is the subject but not the only application. Let people go wider.

- 8 Pastor Matt said whatever you hold back from God is the very thing keeping God at a distance. Besides money, what do people usually hold back?
- 9 When have you watched God provide and then forgotten it within a year? Why do you think that happens?
- 10 What would it mean to trust God with something before you can see how it works out?
- 11 Is there a trade you have been quietly making? You do not have to name it. OPTIONAL

The group together

Remembering is easier out loud. That is what this section is for.

- 12 Israel forgot the Red Sea within weeks. How could this group help each other remember what God has done?
- 13 What is a story of God's provision someone here could tell that the rest of us have not heard?
- 14 What would generosity look like for this group as a whole, not just for individuals in it?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you are holding that you would be willing to hand over, and what would that actually involve?

You might pray about

- For short memories about what God has already done
- For whatever each of us is holding back
- For trust with money that is not anxious
- For the person here who feels they have already traded too much