

**NORTHLAND
CHURCH**

MAY 4-6, 2019

AWAKEN

The Danger of Religiosity

John 2:12-25

The Danger of Religiosity

A message from Matt Heard, Lead Pastor

Read about Pastor Matt at northlandchurch.net/pastormatt.

JOHN 2:12-25 (NIV)

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Faith and life

This week we're studying the difference between religion and the faithful practice of following Jesus.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- What do you think of when you think of religion?
- When have you seen religion be a force for good in the world? When have you seen religion be a force for evil?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ JOHN 2:12-25 (NIV) & 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 (NLT)

- Where did Jesus see religion falling short in John 2?
- What are the limits of religiosity and worldly wisdom, whether from Jews or Gentiles, according to 1 Corinthians?
- What are the places we turn to for wisdom or power?
- What are some of the ways religion, apart from Jesus, tries to offer wisdom or power?
- Why are the religious offended by the gospel? Why does that same message speak wisdom and power to those who follow Jesus?
- As God brings about transformation in your life, what temptations does religion offer? How could community help you resist those temptations?
- How do you handle moments when the call of religiosity and the call of Jesus invite you to move in different directions?
- Where have you seen God's power and wisdom revealed in your life in excess of what either religion or philosophy could offer?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

The term *cargo cult* rose to prominence during the second world war, when developing nations in the Pacific Ocean received supply drops from more technologically advanced nations. When the war ended and the supply drops stopped, cargo cults formed where more remote people groups adopted the behaviors they'd seen in the foreigners that coincided with the supply drops. Within years of World War II's end, cargo cults disappeared because people learned that acting like soldiers or even building faux runways didn't cause new deliveries to appear. In much the same way, we all sometimes engage in that behavior toward God, even building religious practices on the presumption that we can compel the delivery of God's power through certain practices. But Jesus was clear that we don't have the power to earn God's supply; rather, it's freely given for all of us willing to acknowledge our own shortcomings and God's goodness and grace, and to spend a lifetime of faith in following Jesus.

READ ROMANS 3:23-31 (NLT)

- What makes us right with God? Why doesn't the Law make us right with God?
- Have we ever done anything to earn acceptance from God? Can we ever do anything in the future to earn His acceptance? (See verses 27-28.)
- How does this truth affect the religious? How does this truth affect the irreligious?
- What is a place in your life where you sometimes think you're earning, or have earned, God's acceptance?

READ JAMES 2:14-26 (NLT)

- What's the difference between empty and real faith, as described here?
- Does real faith earn God's acceptance? If not, then why are actions a necessary part of faith? (See verse 22.)
- What's a practical way to put your faith into more action?

This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.

What's Current

Get info and sign up at NorthlandChurch.net, or ask a connection team member for assistance.

Healing Hearts Club

MONDAY, JUNE 10–FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 9 A.M.-3 P.M. | Register by May 8 at northlandchurch.net/healinghearts

Fully Alive 5K

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7:30 A.M. | MEET IN THE FRONT PARKING LOT | Register at northlandchurch.net/fullyalive5k

Welcome to Children's Ministries Lunch

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 1-2:30 P.M. | CWW, ROOM 5100 | Register at northlandchurch.net/childrenslunch

Local Serve Day

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 8 A.M.-NOON | MEET IN THE FOYER | Sign up at northlandchurch.net/localserve

Tithes and Offerings



Generosity is alive and well here at Northland Church as evidenced by the outpouring of time, treasure and talent that happened this past weekend. God calls us to be conduits of the resources He has entrusted to us, and it is right that we worship Him in that way with a response that blesses our local community.

You may have seen Northland's dedicated Disaster Response team serving breakfast and lunch after the Sunday services. Through that effort, five new volunteers registered and over \$1,100 was raised with a heart and spirit to be hands and feet of Jesus at a moment's notice.

And, because you heard and responded in a big way to the opportunity Pastor Sean shared as part of his sermon, your generosity will enable Northland to give over \$9,800 to support Latisha's House—a local safe haven for victims of human trafficking.

We join you in celebrating these awesome demonstrations of God's provision and power!

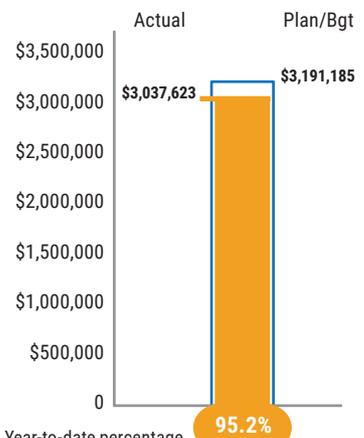
Our 2019 goal for tithes and offerings is \$10 million, with our budget set at \$9.5 million. While actual and budgeted amounts fluctuate from week to week, the average weekly budgeted amount is \$182,693. As you can see on the chart to the right, we are currently at 95.2 percent of our budgeted expectation. That shortfall equates to just \$3.85 weekly per giver—an amount that together, we can easily eradicate.

At Northland, we evaluate actual spending versus budgeted spending to ensure we honor our commitment to a balanced budget. We thank each and every one of you for your generosity. If you would like to partner with us financially, there are a number of ways you can give which are listed below.

We are honored that you are joining us in worship today! If you have questions or if you would like more information about our finances, please email givetonorthland@northlandchurch.net. May God bless you as we work together **...Engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus!**

January 1 - April 30, 2019

Plan/Budget
Actual Giving



Year-to-date percentage reached toward being fully funded.

Ways to Give

Give by cash or check and drop it in any of our tithe boxes.



Give online at NorthlandChurch.net/Give or use the Northland App.



Give via mobile text. Text "northland" followed by the amount to 77977 (e.g. northland10).

