

Luke 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

Analysis

And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. The leaders' response reveals moral bankruptcy—they were glad (*ἐχάρησαν*, echarēsan, aorist passive, 'they rejoiced') at the opportunity to murder the Messiah. They covenanted (*συνέθεντο*, synethento, 'agreed/contracted') to pay Judas, using business language for spiritual treason. Matthew specifies thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15), fulfilling Zechariah 11:12's prophecy of the Good Shepherd valued at a slave's price.

The irony is profound: those who studied Scripture daily, who meticulously tithed 'mint and rue and all manner of herbs' (Luke 11:42), casually purchased murder. Money becomes the currency of betrayal—Judas' greed met by institutional corruption. This 'covenant' of blood money contrasts sharply with the New Covenant Jesus will establish hours later through His own blood (Luke 22:20). Where religious leaders covenant for death, Christ covenants for life.

Historical Context

Thirty shekels was the compensation for a slave gored by an ox (Exodus 21:32), insulting valuation for Israel's shepherd. Temple authorities controlled vast wealth from taxes, tithes, and Passover commerce (the temple treasury held deposits from across the diaspora). Judas' price was relatively modest—about four months' wages for a laborer.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the leaders' 'gladness' at betrayal expose the danger of religious externalism without heart transformation?
2. What modern parallels exist to 'covenanting' for convenience or profit in ways that betray Christ's gospel?
3. How does Judas' price—the value of a slave—highlight both humanity's contempt for Christ and His willing self-humiliation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐχάρησαν	καὶ	συνέθεντο	αὐτῷ	ἀργύριον	δοῦναι
And	they were glad	And	covenanted	him	money	to give
G2532	G5463	G2532	G4934	G846	G694	G1325

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