

Matthew 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Analysis

What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?—Judas's transactional question reveals his mercenary heart. The Greek *ti thelete moi dounai* (τί θέλετέ μοι δοῦναι) means 'What are you willing to give me?' He negotiates Christ's price like a commodity. The verb *paradoso* (παραδώσω), 'I will deliver/betray,' is the same word Jesus used prophesying His being 'delivered up' (v. 2).

And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver—The *triakonta arguria* (τριάκοντα ἀργύρια) fulfills Zechariah 11:12-13, where God's prophet is valued at thirty shekels, the price of a gored slave (Exodus 21:32). This insultingly low sum—about four months' wages compared to Mary's year's wages—reveals Christ's 'worthlessness' to the religious establishment. Judas sells God incarnate for the price of a slave.

Historical Context

The thirty pieces of silver were likely Tyrian shekels, required for temple transactions. After Jesus's death, Judas will return this blood money to the priests (27:3-10), who use it to buy the potter's field for burying foreigners, precisely fulfilling Zechariah 11:13. God's sovereignty operates through human treachery.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Judas's valuation of Jesus at thirty silver pieces contrast with Mary's 'waste' of 300 denarii in worship?
2. What 'price' have you placed on Christ—is He worth your costliest sacrifice or only your leftover convenience?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν,	Τί	θέλετέ	μοι	δοῦναι	κάγὼ	ὑμῖν
And said	unto them	What	will ye	me	give	and unto you
G2036	G5101	G2309	G3427	G1325	G2504	G5213
παραδώσω	αὐτῷ	οἱ	δὲ	ἔστησαν	αὐτῷ	τριάκοντα
I will deliver	him	G3588	And	they covenanted	him	for thirty
G3860	G846	G1161	G2476	G846	G5144	
ἀργύρια						
pieces of silver						
G694						

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:32 (Parallel theme): If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.