

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 θέλετε 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 ἀργυρία) 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 θέλετε μοι δοῦναι κάγὼ ὑμῖν
And said unto them What will ye give and unto you
G2036 G5101 G2309 G3427 G1325 G2504 G5213

παραδώσω αὐτῷ οἱ δὲ ἔστησαν αὐτῷ τριάκοντα
I will deliver him And they covenanted him for thirty
G3860 G846 G3588 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.