

Matthew 27:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

Analysis

I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood (ἡμαρτον παραδοὺς αἷμα ἀθῶον)—Judas's confession uses *hēmarton* ("I sinned"), the aorist tense indicating a completed, irreversible act. His recognition of Christ as *haima athōon* ("innocent blood") unwittingly fulfills Isaiah 53:9 ("he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth"). Yet this is remorse, not repentance—Judas acknowledges guilt but seeks relief from consequences rather than restoration with God.

What is that to us? see thou to that (τί πρὸς ἡμᾶς; σὺ ὄψῃ)—The chief priests' callous dismissal reveals the hardness that religious externalism produces. The phrase *sy opsē* ("you will see to it") throws responsibility back on Judas with brutal indifference. They paid thirty pieces of silver (the price of a slave, Exodus 21:32) to secure his betrayal, but now disown any moral culpability. This exchange exposes the difference between worldly sorrow that leads to death (2 Corinthians 7:10) and godly grief that produces repentance.

Historical Context

This occurred early Friday morning after the illegal night trial before Caiaphas (circa 30 AD). Judas's return to the temple treasury occurred while Jesus stood before Pilate. The thirty pieces of silver were temple shekels, making the priests' acceptance of "blood money" a profound violation of Deuteronomy 23:18. Matthew

alone records Judas's fate, emphasizing the theological consequence of betraying the Messiah.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between Judas's remorse and Peter's repentance, and where do you see each pattern in your own life?
2. How does the priests' refusal of responsibility challenge us about complicity in injustice we set in motion but distance ourselves from?

Interlinear Text

λέγων,	Ἑμαρτον	παραδοὺς	αἷμα	ἀθῶον	οἱ	δὲ
Saying	I have sinned	in that I have betrayed	blood	the innocent	G3588	And
G3004	G264	G3860	G129	G121		G1161
εἶπον,	Τί	πρὸς	ἡμᾶς	σὺ	ὄψει	
they said	What	is that to	us	thou	see	
G2036	G5101	G4314	G2248	G4771	G3700	

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:2 (Parallel theme): Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;