

Holy Week

DAY THREE

The Silver Coins

Then one of the Twelve - the one called Judas Iscariot - went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.'

Matthew 26:14-15

Reflection/Action

Judas betrayed his friend in exchange for a momentary financial gain. But perhaps Judas is not alone in this - maybe we also 'haggle' for benefits at the cost of others?

Have a careful think: What benefits do we receive that cause pain & suffering to others? For example, we benefit from cheap clothing, but at what cost? In some cases it may have been made in a sweatshop employing enslaved children. Although unknowingly and indirectly, our actions could cost others.

Ask God to show you how your actions may benefit you but come at a cost to others. Recognise this, own it and ask for God's forgiveness. Then let us try to be more aware of how we can bless (and not seek to gain from) others.

The Bible Series - An interview with Judas Iscariot:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKhTLuWOzok

Context

At the time of Jesus, 30 pieces of silver was not considered a large amount, and the bible directly refers to this precise amount as the price paid to a Master for when a slave was killed by an ox. When Judas haggled with the priests on the price to hand over Jesus, this was all they felt Jesus' life was worth.

According to Matthew 27, Judas was then filled with remorse and returned the money to the priests before hanging himself. The chief priests decided that they could not put it into the temple treasury as it was considered blood money, and so with it they bought the Potter's Field.

Ultimately, the small payment received by Judas for his betrayal brought him no earthly gain or blessings as, overcome with guilt and shame, he committed suicide. His 30 silver coins had become blood money. Although he did not physically crucify Jesus, his actions led directly to this chain of events.

It is such irony that the price considered in earthly terms for Jesus was so low, in return for the highest price that Jesus could ever pay; His own excruciating death and separation from His father, where He chose to willingly take the price of our sins upon himself.