

Thirty pieces of silver

Text: Matthew 27:1-9

V9 - 9 *Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced,*

NLT... “the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel”

Jesus’ life was valued at 30 pieces of silver. In the eyes of the scribes and temple officials His ‘net worth’ did not exceed that of a slave

V.6 says that when Judas tried to return the money to the priests they did not put it in the treasury because it was the “price of blood”. Not only Jesus was of little value in the sight of those priests but His blood was considered defiling and of no value at all. However, the Bible says, “*knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,* ¹⁹ *but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” **1 Peter 1:18-19.**

That blood is precious: it is of great value, it has all the qualities that make it ‘precious’: it is royal, rare and unique. It does not defile but redeems, purifies, saves and cleanses us from all sin.

What is the value of Jesus? What is the worth of His blood shed on the cross? These are all important questions as we come into this Easter season.

1. Judas

Jesus was valued as you would an object or some commodity. How was Jesus of such little worth, even in the eyes of Judas, one of His disciples? How did that happen? I find it hard to believe how a person who walked with Jesus, touched Him, saw miracles would sell Him in exchange of so little. How could Jesus be worth so little in the eyes of Judas?

Unlike Andrew or John, we don’t really know how Judas came to know Jesus and become part of His inner circle. We can imagine that he must have first come to Jesus like so many came: amazed by His miracles, in awe of His power, perhaps convicted by some powerful sermon at a synagogue.

However, as Judas made his way into that inner circle perhaps his heart started to change – he grew familiar with the miracles, his motivation turned towards more earthly things like ‘money’ to the point that he was entrusted with the money box .

He probably just lost the sense of wonder when it came to Jesus – after all, miracles with Jesus were just routine and part of ‘another day at the office’. However, money had a stronger appeal – it was tangible and... he was in charge of it.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 Message - *But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.*

Judas was still following Jesus but no longer pursuing a life of wonder and faith. May we never lose our wonder of Jesus, may He never become of less value in our eyes! May nothing grow bigger than Jesus on our hearts - ever. May we stay with the same child-like faith of those early days with Him, may we never lose that first love.

Judas followed Jesus with his feet but allowed his heart to run in a different direction. We have to make sure that our hearts always run in the right direction.

A good indicator of whether our hearts are running in the right direction is how much we value Jesus. How important is He in our lives?

2. The concept of value

“Value” according to the dictionary is “the regard that something or someone is held to deserve”, the importance, , the merit, the worth of that person.

How valuable is Jesus to us? This is very important because

a) We only respond to what we value

In Jesus’ hometown Jesus was not valued like the Messiah. People didn’t respond to His ministry like in other places. He didn’t do any mighty miracles except laying His hand on a few.

b) We only receive from what we truly value

In Jesus’ hometown they received little because they thought little of Jesus.

How different that is from the leader of the Synagogue who came to Jesus after his daughter died and said:

“My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”

Matthew 9:18

He had Jesus in high regard and received accordingly.

How valuable is Jesus to you?

1. He is ‘worthy’ of all glory in heaven

His worth was set at 30 pieces of silver, however, heaven declares His true worth :

... “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5:12 (5:9-14)

2. He is 'precious' to the church

1Peter 2:4,7

4.Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,... 7. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

3. He is worthy of our greatest treasures

Mark 14:3-9 – a year's wages of perfume poured on Jesus' head. Judas was indignant but Jesus considered it appropriate worship.

4. Some of the things that seem of greatest worth in this world are like 'rubbish' compared to the true value of Jesus.

There are 3 international credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and S&P). They rate countries like Australia with a AAA rating and struggling economies with 'junk status'.

Philippians 3:7-8 - *⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*

Paul rated the most important things in his life with 'junk status', compared to the 'excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus'.

Conclusion

Hebrews 11:24-26 *²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

May we value Jesus above everything else. May everything else have 'junk status' when we consider Jesus. May He never become less important in our eyes, may we live always in wonder of Him.