

"THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The question is often asked, "If 'Thirty Pieces Of Silver'" is a symbol of betrayal, then why is it used as a special Easter Offering?" A good answer might be found as follows: In Matthew 26:15; 27:3, it is stated that Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver. This was the cost of a slave (Exodus 21:32) and was prophesied (Zechariah 11:12,13) over four hundred years prior to it's fulfillment.

Now - when one hears the words "thirty pieces of silver", does it not constantly remind us of the price Judas was paid for **betraying Christ**? YES, it does! BUT, does it mean that we are never to mention it? When we see a cross, or a crown of thorns, are we to close our eyes and say we don't see them? No, this is still history. Likewise, the thirty pieces of silver is history. When referring to this as a theme for a special Easter offering -- **it should remind us of the betrayal** of Christ by Judas, and **should challenge us to work in reverse**. That is, by challenging us to be constantly living for Christ, and never, never, never betraying Him.

May we understand that the theme "**Thirty Pieces of Silver**" **is not to be a maximum of giving to this special Easter offering**, just an example. (This is a good way to teach young people to sacrifice thirty coins of silver, such as: instead of buying a coke, candy bar, chips, etc., give that money in the special offering rather than spending it on oneself). May we look forward to the **Special Easter Offering** and realize that it will take a sacrificial offering to exceed Easter Offerings of the past.

Every person who has any type of income should tithe (give 10% of one's income) whether a person is a pauper, on welfare, or a multimillionaire. **Tithing is fair to all mankind**. Thus, God is fair to all mankind - the poor give "little" and the wealthy give "much"!

If **every** disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ would **commit to be tithers** of their treasures, they would "lay up treasures in Heaven" and reap from God at the present (Matthew 6:19-21; Proverbs 3:9,10).

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