

Lenten Series: Sounds of the Passion—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN—Wed.2/23/05

Theme: What price we are ready to pay for our soul should always be considered from the perspective of the price that Jesus paid for our salvation.

Text: **Matthew 27: 3-10**

Intro: *Ills.: the coin in your hand*

Do we sell out our soul for too cheap a price?

1. Selling out our eternity because we do not consider its net worth
 1. **Ills. Women puts valuable coin in parking meter**
 2. Judas devalued the treasure of Jesus in his life for a fantasy of power and money
 3. What things or relationships of this world have become too value for you?
 4. *What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8: 36-37*
2. Learning to turn from remorse to repentance when we discover the deflating truth
 1. Judas could see the wrong in what he did but not the solution (self-made salvation)
 2. Judas “felt” bad about his mistake but did not have a *change of mind* about his sin
 3. Being sorry means you surrender, give up, lay down, seek grace, turn away from rather than save face, make excuses, pretend sorrow, expect mercy

Consider your value in light of the price that Jesus was willing to pay

3. Jesus is our most valued treasure which is as priceless today as it was ten years ago
 1. **Ills.: Treasure Still To Be Found**
 2. *Realize that you weren't set free from the worthless life handed down to you from your ancestors by a payment of silver or gold which can be destroyed. Rather, the payment that freed you was the precious blood of Christ, the lamb with no defects or imperfections. 1 Pt 1: 18-19*
 3. When tempted to invest in other things before or beside Jesus, pick Jesus before all
4. When all that is left is Jesus, being content
 1. Why was Jesus enough for Peter but not for Judas?
 1. Peter stopped looking to himself and looked to Jesus; Judas did not
 2. Not making Jesus my fix to get me through the next hangover of sin
 2. Finding in Jesus the permanent peace from a screaming conscience of sin
 3. Discovering in Jesus a daily renewing strength to live the life of true repentance

Giving Away Your Most Valuable Possession

When we possess something of great value, we generally safeguard it. Through a series of errors, a South African woman failed to properly care for a collection of gold coins she inherited from her mother. The valuable coins were mixed with the rest of the woman's loose change. While on a shopping trip near Cape Town, she parked her car and used a Kruger sovereign to feed the parking meter. The gold coin, minted in 1890, is said to be worth a small fortune. Despite its value, the coin bought no extra parking time. How often do we exchange the priceless for the common or trade the eternal for the temporary? **Citation: John Beukema, Western Springs, Illinois; source: "Woman Drops Rare Gold Coin in Parking Meter," Reuters (7-22-04)**

Treasure Still To Be Found

Volunteers from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, excavating at Caesarea Maritima in 1992, literally struck gold--99 gold coins had been stashed by the owner inside a makeshift "safe," hidden beneath a floor in a private dwelling. Considered one of Israel's richest archaeological sites, Caesarea's treasures continue to be uncovered by archaeological teams even after 21 years of digging.

Citation: Christian Reader, Vol. 32, no. 3.

Matthew 27:3-10

³When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."