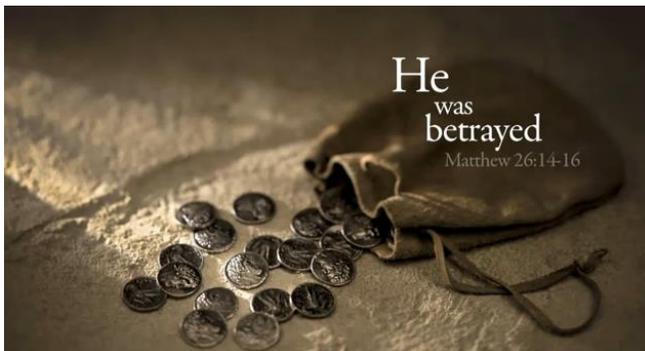


April 08 2020; Wednesday of Holy Week

<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/040820.cfm>

“30 Pieces of Silver”

In today’s Gospel we read the sad narrative of Judas conspiring with the chief priests to betray Jesus Christ for 30 pieces of silver. Exodus 21 notes that 30 pieces of silver was the price of a slave. In that light, this payment could be seen as ransom for a slave -- a fitting suggestion given Christ would soon buy our freedom with His Death.



Question of the day: What are your “30 pieces of silver?” I’m sure most of us would quickly say we’d never betray Christ -- and there is no doubt truth to that in a “Judas-level” sense of betrayal. But it is also true that we betray Him every time we choose sin over God: when we know what we’re about to do (or not do) is wrong and we choose that path anyway.

So what temptations cause us to choose sin and reject Jesus? Is it physical: s.a. inordinate seeking of pleasure of the various senses s.a. food, sexuality, other creature comforts? Or mental/emotional: fear; perhaps the way we see or treat ourselves and others; or discipline-related when feeling hungry, angry, alone, or tired (HALT); or even scrupulosity? Is it spiritual: not having full trust and confidence in the Good Shepherd in the storms of life; laziness, etc?

Many times we are strong in resisting Mortal sin, but quite weak in resisting Venial sin – as if to say, “No sir, I’ll not take that 30 pieces of silver (but maybe if you toss one little coin my way that’s okay...)” The dangerous thing about not paying enough attention to venial sins is that they add up and make us more likely to fall into mortal sin. If we keep excusing the single pieces of silver we accept, soon we find ourselves with 25 and Satan whispers, “What’s 5 more..? Maybe you should go for the full 30...” Today let us resolve to not be like Judas; let us consistently choose Christ over sin, even in the little ways.

Peace,

Dcn Ron