

## GOD WORKS EVEN THROUGH BETRAYAL HIS WILL TO ENACT

Hear the Word of God for this *Wednesday in Holy Week*, as the Word of God breaks into our last few days of fasting that we might find our thoughts continuing into the Passion of the Christ:

*Then Satan went in into Judas the one called Iscariot who was continually being from the number of the Twelve; then, having gone away, he talked together with the high priests and soldiers of the thing – how he might hand over Him to them. Then they rejoiced and made agreement together with him silver to give. Then he confessed – out, and he sought (a) good time to handover Him apart from (a) crowd to them. <sup>1</sup>*

**Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

This is the day in Holy Week to keep this thought in mind:

The Large Catechism, Lord's Prayer: **THE LAST PETITION**

***“But deliver us from evil. Amen.”***

In the Greek<sup>2</sup> this petition reads, “Deliver or keep us from the Evil One, or the Wicked One.” The petition seems to be speaking of the devil as the sum of all evil in order that the entire substance of our prayer may be directed against our arch-enemy. It is he who obstructs everything that we pray for: God's name or glory, God's kingdom and will, our daily bread, a good and cheerful conscience, etc....

This petition includes all the evil that may befall us under the devil's kingdom: poverty, shame, death, and, in short, all the tragic misery and heartache of which there is so incalculably much on earth. Since the devil is not only a liar but also a

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<sup>1</sup>Luke 22:3-6..

<sup>2</sup> The first edition of the Large Catechism reads erroneously, “In the Hebrew.”

murderer,<sup>3</sup> he incessantly seeks our life .... He breaks many a man's neck and drives others to insanity... many he hounds to suicide or other dreadful catastrophes.

Therefore there is nothing for us to do on earth but to pray constantly against this arch-enemy. For if God did not support us, we would not be safe from him for a single hour.<sup>2</sup>

You are encouraged to keep that in mind, because today's reflection is on the text which follows directly upon the anointing of Jesus for burial. (Review briefly Sunday, Monday and Tuesday events)

Recall how the scene for the betrayal was set up last night:

Mark 14:1-2 -- Ἦν δὲ τὸ πάσχα καὶ τὰ ἄζυμα μετὰ δύο ἡμέρας. καὶ ἐζήτουν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ γραμματεῖς πῶς αὐτὸν ἐν δόλῳ κρατήσαντες ἀποκτείνωσιν· 2 ἔλεγον γάρ· μὴ ἐν τῇ ἑορτῇ, μήποτε ἔσται θόρυβος τοῦ λαοῦ.<sup>3</sup>

The plans were to separate Jesus, and kill Him after the Feast. Yet, opportunity presents itself, and the leaders of the people act. Why Judas? He opened himself to the Satan....

John 6:70 -- ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· οὐκ ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς τοὺς δώδεκα ἐξελεξάμην; καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν εἷς διάβολός ἐστιν.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> John 8:44.

<sup>2</sup> *The Book of Concord the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. 1959 (T. G. Tappert, Ed.) (435). Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 136

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 269

Develop the texts below:

Luke 22:3-6	Matthew 26:14-16	Mark 14:10-11
<p>Εἰση̃λθεν δὲ Σατανᾶς εἰς Ἰούδαν τὸν καλούμενον Ἰσκαριώτην, ὄντα ἐκ τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τῶν δώδεκα· καὶ ἀπελθὼν συνελάλησεν τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσιν καὶ στρατηγοῖς τὸ πῶς αὐτοῖς παραδῶ αὐτόν. καὶ ἐχάρησαν καὶ συνέθεντο αὐτῷ ἀργύριον δοῦναι. καὶ ἐξωμολόγησεν, καὶ ἐζήτει εὐκαιρίαν τοῦ παραδοῦναι αὐτὸν ἄτερ ὄχλου αὐτοῖς.</p>	<p>Τότε πορευθεὶς εἰς τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Ἰούδας Ἰσκαριώτης, πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς εἶπεν· τί θέλετέ μοι δοῦναι, κἀγὼ ὑμῖν παραδώσω αὐτόν; οἱ δὲ ἔστησαν αὐτῷ τριάκοντα ἀργύρια. καὶ ἀπὸ τότε ἐζήτει εὐκαιρίαν ἵνα αὐτὸν παραδῶ.<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>Καὶ Ἰούδας Ἰσκαριῶθ ὁ εἷς τῶν δώδεκα ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς ἵνα αὐτὸν παραδοῖ αὐτοῖς. οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες ἐχάρησαν καὶ ἐπηγγείλαντο αὐτῷ ἀργύριον δοῦναι. καὶ ἐζήτει πῶς αὐτὸν εὐκαιρῶς παραδοῖ.</p>

God works even through evil His will to enact – that is that no one should be lost and fall short of the glory of God.

<sup>5</sup> Nestle, E., Nestle, E., Aland, B., Aland, K., Karavidopoulos, J., Martini, C. M., & Metzger, B. M. (1993). *The Greek New Testament* (27th ed.) (75). Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.

It has been said, “A man who will lie to you, will steal from you; a man who will steal from you, will kill you.” Just so it was with Judas. Yet, God turned this for the salvation of sinners. It came at a price, 30 pieces of silver. That was the biblically prescribed amount an ox owner had to pay to a slave owner if his ox gored a slave, male or female.<sup>6</sup>

Yet, there is another biblical reality about the 30 pieces of silver. It is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. In a conversation between God and the shepherd of God’s people a conversation is recorded in the Book of Zechariah. There, the price given to turn over the flock (which represents God’s people) to destruction is, 30 pieces of silver. Then, when it is received, the shepherd was to “throw it to the potter that princely price they set on Me.”<sup>7</sup> It was the cost of the potter’s field in that prophecy written about four centuries before it was fulfilled in Jesus through Judas’ betrayal.

**The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**

Lent VI, Wednesday, *Palmarum* (LSB One-year series)

Psalms 60, 27, 118:19-29; Isaiah 62:11:-- 63:7; Luke 22:1-23, 56

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**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

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<sup>6</sup> Exodus 21:32.

<sup>7</sup> Zechariah 11:12-13.