Star Bulletin

ON FAITH

Focus on life's gifts of true value, not 30 pieces of silver

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Thirty pieces of silver — that's the price of betrayal. The Bible tells us that Judas betrayed Jesus for a mere 30 pieces of silver.

I find it interesting that the Bible also shows us that silver has no truly lasting value. First Book of Kings tells us that in King Solomon's day, silver was "as common in Jerusalem as stones." It was considered of little value. This was the heyday of Israel's might. The kingdom was fully united under King David's son, living at peace and gloriously living in God's blessings. That all changed under Solomon's son, Rehoboam.

In scriptures we see that Jeroboam and his cohort challenged King Rehoboam to reduce the taxes that Solomon had levied. Instead of reducing the taxes, Rehoboam raised them because he wanted to be more powerful than his father had been. The kingdom was divided when Jeroboam rebelled along with the 10 northern tribes, the kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam was left with the smaller southern kingdom of Judah.

This split was prophesied during King Solomon's reign because Solomon's foreign wives had brought their gods and goddesses with them. Solomon and the people of the united kingdom had begun to worship them instead of worshipping the Lord their God.

Thirty pieces of silver. Solomon, Rehoboam and Judas all gave up something of true value for something that had no inherent value. They had the chance to serve the God of their fathers, but they gave it up for women, power and 30 pieces of silver.

Let's not be too hard on these men. We all have our 30 pieces of silver. Every betrayal is committed for 30 pieces of silver. We exchange something of true value for something that has no inherent value.

The only thing of true lasting value is our relationships. Everything else will pass away, but our relationships will go with us into eternity.

The children whom we have no time for are things of true value. There is no inherent value in the things we buy for them by working so hard and being gone from home so long.

The friend we exchange secrets with is someone of true value. The power we gain by betraying those secrets to someone else, well, that's 30 pieces of silver.

Selfishness and greed are 30 pieces of silver, but so are indifference and neglect. Serving, giving and loving are things of true value.

We have a choice in life. We can ruthlessly take our 30 pieces of silver and try to enjoy its fleeting glory, or we can put first the loving relationships that make life truly rich. By giving our time in loving acts directly to our friends and family, we gain many assets, both for this life and the next.

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