**R874\_(71) Rumination for October 24, 2010**

The **T**heme: **Thirty Pieces of Silver** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear.*

 *So they weighed for my price* ***thirty pieces of silver.*** Zech. 11:12

The **T**hots:

1. **The Price of the Good Shepherd. [See text above.] Zech. 11:12**
2. **The Punishment of the False Shepherds. Zech. 11:2, 3, 5**

*Howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled.*

1. The false **P**astors (shepherds) would be **P**unished for neglecting the sheep of the flock. 11:3, 5, 8
2. The **P**eople would not be **P**itied – they had not kept God’s covenant. 11:6, 10
3. There would be a **P**arting of ways (the staffs) – God would break His **P**ledge. 11:7b-11
4. But God’s **P**oor of the flock (*flock of slaughter*, the remnant) would be **P**astured (fed) 11:4, 7a
5. **The Payment for the Good Shepherd Zech. 11:12, NIV**

*"If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me* ***thirty pieces of silver****.*

1. How much would it **C**ost the false shepherds for the Lord to pasture the sheep?
2. They **C**onsidered him to be worth only ***thirty pieces of silver*** – the price of a slave! See below.
3. In that **C**ase, the Lord would rather that such handsome (!) price be **C**ast to the potter –

 "*Throw it to the potter"* – *the handsome price at which they priced me!”* Zech. 11:13

1. **The Price of the Gored Slave Exo. 21:32, NIV**

 The Compensation for a person gored to death by an ox:

1. For a dead man or woman, it would be a life for a life. Exo. 21:29

*But if the ox … hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner … put to death.*

1. For a dead son or daughter, the ox-owner’s life could be redeemed if so demanded. 21:29, 30

*If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life*

*whatsoever is laid upon him. Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter…*

1. For a dead servant or a slave, the price was **thirty pieces of silver**. Exo. 21:32, NIV

*If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave.*

1. **The Price of our Great Saviour Matt. 26:15**
2. The Lord was surrounded by the **B**ulls of **B**ashan (Cf. *the oaks of Bashan*, Zech. 11:2) Psa. 22:12

 *Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.*

1. The Lord was “gored” by the **S**oldiers and others who **S**urrounded Him. Psa. 22:16

 *Dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

* 1. Judas, and men and soldiers of the chief **P**riests and **P**harisees surrounded Him. Jn. 18:3

 *Judas then, … received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither …*

* 1. The Lord was **C**rucified: His hands and feet pierced by *the bulls of Bashan* on the **C**ross. Jn. 19:16, 37

 *Then delivered he Him therefore unto them to be crucified…They shall look on Him whom they pierced;*

* 1. The Lord’s **S**ide was **S**peared and He died. Jn. 19:34

 *One of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

1. Yet their “owners” (chief priests) just “compensated” God for His **S**on’s death for only ***thirty pieces of Silver***!

*Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for* ***thirty pieces of silver.*** Mt. 26:14, 15

1. What a “handsome **P**rice” for God’s Son Who was “Gored” – it was only fit for the **P**otter’s field! Mt. 26:3-10

 God, Whose Son was “gored” by the chief priests’ “*bulls*”, was only given a Slave’s Compensation!

 This was only good for the potter’s field. **How much is God’s Son worth to us?** cf. Zech. 11:13

1. **The Price of the Godless Soul? – How much are we worth to God and His Son? Matt. 13:45**

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

 *Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

1. It Cost God His Son to purchase us – *He spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us.* Rom. 8:32
2. It Cost Christ His Life to purchase us – *ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold …*

 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*  I Pet. 1:18, 19

Con. Today, the Lord asks: *If ye think good, give Me My price*. Please do not pay Him just *a penny for our thoughts.*

 Please do not value Him just for ***thirty pieces of silver.*** He is worth the full worth of our thoughts and life today

– **He, and He alone, is worthy of our worship.**

Jesus our Lord, with what joy we adore Thee, Chanting our praise to Thyself on the throne!

Blest in Thy presence, we worship before Thee, Own Thou art worthy, and worthy alone:

Lord, Thou art worthy; Lord, Thou art worthy; Lord, Thou art worthy and worthy alone!

 Author unknown

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 874**

1. How much is Christ worth to you?

To Judas Iscariot, He was worth only thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave!

*Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me,*

*and I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for* ***thirty pieces of silver.*** Mt. 26:14, 15

How much was Christ worth to the following?

1. To a Righteous Rich young man: Matthew 19:16-22

*And, behold, one came and said unto Him,*

*Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*

 *…if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

*…Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

 *The young man saith…, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?*

*Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:*

***and come and follow Me****.*

***But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful:***

***for he had great possessions****.*

His Rich Possessions were more Precious and Priceless to him. ***Following Jesus*** was not sufficient Price or worth for him to Pay to have eternal life!

1. Contrast those who Paid the Price to Follow Jesus. Matt. 4:18-22

*Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren,* ***Simon called Peter, and Andrew*** *his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

*And he saith unto them,* ***Follow Me****, and I will make you fishers of men.*

*And* ***they straightway left their nets, and followed Him****.*

*And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren,* ***James the son of Zebedee, and John*** *his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*

*And* ***they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him****.*

There was the rich young ruler who was not prepared to pay the price in order to follow Jesus, but preferred to keep the treasure he had. But we also thank God that there were those who were prepared to leave all to follow Jesus. Which group do you belong to? **REFLECT**.

1. Consider what Paul said about Jesus: Phil. 3:4-16
*…If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, … in the law, blameless.****But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ****.
Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:* ***for whom I have suffered the loss of all things****, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness…****That I may know Him****, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death…if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren…I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded…let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

Can we be like Paul having the same rule and the same mind? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *With and In Christ, your loss is Gain.*