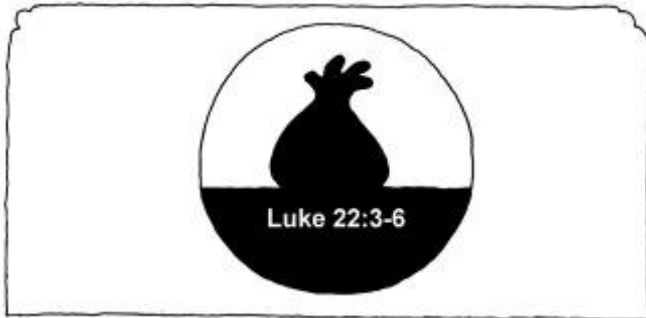


JUDAS thirty silver coins

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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



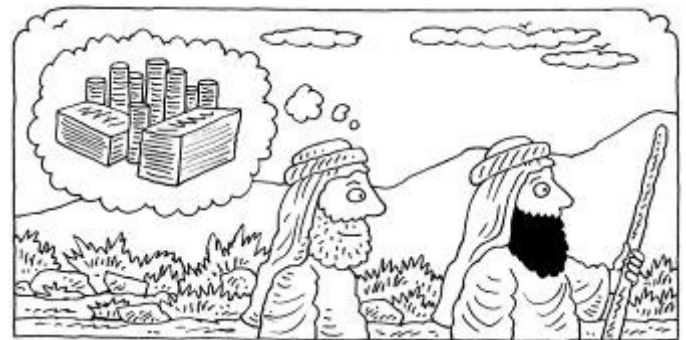
Wherever Jesus went crowds of people followed him and many were sick and poor. Jesus and his helpers often gave money to them and kept the coins in a money bag.



Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve disciples Jesus chose. He looked after the money bag of coins Jesus gave away to very poor people who could not work.



Judas saw many miracles. When Jesus touched them, blind people could see, lepers were healed and people who had never walked, stood up and jumped for joy.



Jesus taught Judas and his friends, "Love God with all your heart and love others as much as you love yourself." Judas loved Jesus, but he loved money more.



The temple leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus, so Judas offered to show them where to find him, if they paid him some money. They gave him thirty silver coins.



Judas took the temple guards to the Mount of Olives to find Jesus. As he went to greet Jesus with a kiss on the cheek, to show them who to arrest, Jesus asked, "Judas will you betray me with a kiss?"



When Jesus was arrested and crucified, Judas was very sorry. He tried to give the money back, but the temple leaders wouldn't take it, so he threw it on the temple floor and went and hanged himself on a tree.



The temple leaders didn't know what to do with the money so they bought the useless land outside the city, where potters dug clay to make pots. They made a place to bury any strangers who died in their town.