

# Money, Money, Money

Judas Iscariot was one of the 12 Apostles. He spent most of three years walking with Jesus during the Lord's ministry. He handled the financial affairs of the men who walked with Jesus. Unfortunately, he became greedy.

Matthew 26:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

One theory is that the pieces of silver used to pay Judas were equivalent to a Roman denarius. A Roman soldier, for example, was paid about 225 denarii per year. In comparison, a modern-day US military soldier earns about \$25,000 a year. In this interpretation, Judas would have been paid about \$3,000 in today's value.

So, this gives you an idea of how greed enters into a person's heart.

Now Judas tried to give the money back to the evil Sanhedrin after he realized the evil he had done. But, they said no, what you have done is your responsibility. So, Judas is said to have thrown the money into the temple and then walked out to a place and hanged himself. So tragic.

## Question Time:

1. Who was Judas Iscariot?
2. What was his main job as an Apostle?
3. How much money did he receive for betraying Jesus to the Sanhedrin?

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 6:10 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Matthew 6:33** <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**I John 2:16** <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

**Hebrews 13:5** <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

**Mark 8:36** <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

**Next Steps:** Ask your parents to help you look up “What can I buy or do with \$3000? It is amazing. You can buy a used car, a top level I Phone, a computer, a dinner for you and three friends at Che’ Miserabe. All of these things are material and for self-enjoyment. Ask your parents to think about things you could spend the \$3000 on that are for a good cause.