

JESUS prays in Gethsemane

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By Jill Kemp

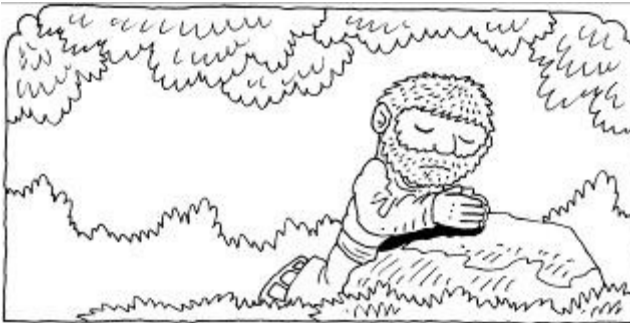
Illustrated by Richard Gunther



Jesus had been on the Mount of Olives with his disciples. At the bottom of the mountain is a very old olive orchard called the Garden of Gethsemane (Geth-sem-an-ee).



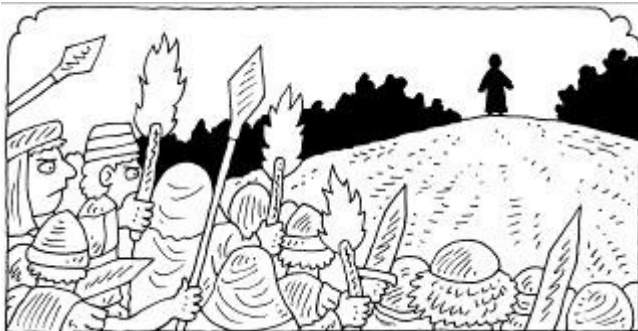
Jesus was sad because he knew that soon he would die on the cross. He took Peter, James and John to the olive orchard in the garden of Gethsemane, to pray.



His friends sat down in the garden while Jesus went a little way off to pray by himself, asking his Heavenly Father to help him face what was about to happen.



When Jesus went back his friends were all fast asleep. "Wake up," he said. "Couldn't you watch and pray with me for just one hour?"



Then the temple guards with torches and swords came looking for Jesus. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, had agreed to show them who Jesus was if they paid him 30 silver coins.



"The person I greet with a kiss on the cheek is Jesus," Judas told the soldiers. Peter, James and John were shocked when the High Priest's soldiers came to arrest Jesus.



Peter was so angry he cut off the ear of Malchus, the High Priest's servant. "Put away your sword," said Jesus. "People who use swords will get killed by them." He reached out and healed his ear.



Judas betrayed Jesus and the guards arrested him and took him away to be questioned by the high priest. Jesus' friends were so scared they ran off.