

Text: Matthew 27:3-10

Title: Judas Regrets His Action

Truth: Cultivate true repentance in your life.

Date/Location: December 14, 2022 at FBC

Introduction

Chapter 27 verses 1-2 goes with verses 11 and following, so I am going to save those for the next time. This time we deal with the unpleasant matter of Judas and how he ended up after his betrayal of Jesus. Difficult though it is, it is still in Scripture!

I. The Narrative, 27:3-10

- A. Judas was remorseful. He felt bad because his conscience now accused him of wrongdoing. He knew he had done wrong by “betraying innocent blood.” Even one as deep into sin as Judas knew that. But his suicide shows that his remorse was not directed toward God. He had a worldly sorrow, not a godly one (2 Cor. 7:10 “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”)
- B. The chief priests and elders were, morally speaking, farther gone than Judas. They said something like this: “It’s not a big deal to us. You deal with it.” In their self-centered superiority, they did not care one bit.
- D. Judas got rid of the blood money. He did not need it!
- E. The priests at least had the sense not to defile the temple treasury with blood money. They took the money and bought a cemetery plot with it from some person known as a pottery maker. That plot of ground became known as the field of blood and was used as a burial ground for foreigners.
- F. The fulfillment language of verse 9 indicates that the historical events recorded in Zechariah 11:12-13 were pre-planned by God to be the pattern of a future similar event which we are now reading. God told Zechariah to do and record what we could not know of the future event from Zechariah. Thus “fulfill” is not used in the commonly misunderstood way of “that was a prophecy of a future

event and now it is happening.” Here, “fulfill” is more like “an analogy or likeness to a past event” or “a type is now correlated with its anti-type pattern.”

- G. The mention of “Jeremiah” refers to the section of the Old Testament which begins with Jeremiah’s book. Jeremiah stood at the head of the prophetic section, so the whole section was sometimes called by his name, though not technically ascribed to him as its author because he was *not* the author.

II. Lessons

- A. Notice the contrast between Peter’s response to denying the Lord, recorded in 26:69-75, and Judas’s response to doing something somewhat worse. Peter wept bitterly and we understand from this and other passages that he repented.
- B. It does not appear that Judas did anything about his relationship with Jesus before he died. Judas felt bad, but took a much different route to “handle” his feelings than Peter did.
- C. The priests were the worst of all in a sense. They were supposed to know, but they were haters. They certainly did not have eternal life in them.
- D. We do not know *for sure* from Judas’s suicide that he was unsaved. But we do know his state from what Jesus said in Matthew 26:24 and John 17:12.

III. Questions About Suicide

Not infrequently over the years, I have been asked questions about suicide because it is something that does happen and touches almost all of us with at least some remote connection.

- A. Is suicide murder? Suicide is the sin of “self murder.” Like *homicide* is a murder of a person (hom = man), and *insecticide* is something that kills (cide) insects. *Pesticide* and *algacide* are similar. *Infanticide* is the killing of born infants, although I would argue that abortion amounts to the same thing. *Genocide* is another similar word, the killing of a large group of people from a nation or ethnic group. *Matricide* and *fratricide* refer to the killing of one’s parents.

Deicide is the killing of a god, which a lot of people think has been done with the idea of God. Suicide is killing oneself.

- B. Is suicide an unpardonable sin? No. It is pardonable. The idea that if you do not confess every sin before you die, that then you will go to Hell—that is completely false. It is not confession of every act of sin that saves you. It is trust in Jesus Christ that saves you.

Furthermore, the description of the unpardonable sin in Matthew 12 has nothing to do with killing others or oneself. The unpardonable sin in Matthew 12 had to do with ascribing Jesus's Spirit-empowered works to the Devil. This is one way of rejecting Christ. Ultimately any rejection of Christ—if *persistent and held to the end of one's life*—is unpardonable. That is because if you reject Christ, there is no other offering for sin sufficient to produce salvation. (Acts 4:12). I say all that to reinforce that it is the **rejection** of Christ—and remaining in your own native sinful, dead state—that sends one to Hell. It is not suicide or one or the other specific sin that guarantees eternal condemnation. Our sin problem is *much greater than that*.

- C. However, suicide is not a good sign of someone's spiritual well-being. While Christians can become so despondent that they contemplate taking their own lives, a believer most often understands that life is a gift, that murder is wrong, that God is good, that most problems will "come to pass" and are bearable somehow. They are willing to humble themselves to seek the help of others. They recognize that anyone can fall into depression (many ministers have experienced *deep* depression) and deep problems in life. But there is a way through without "checking out."
- D. What about the passage that a murderer does not have eternal life? 1 John 3:15 says that murders do not have eternal life abiding in them. **This is a general rule** which does give rise to the above doubt about someone who hates the image of God in themselves—just like a murderer hates the image of God in others. But we do not know the heart, nor do we know the struggles that people have faced over the years of their lives that are impacting their thinking. A murderer—in John's case a hater—is someone

marked by the pattern of hatred and even homicide so that their general pattern of life is not righteous, but rather wicked. A person who commits suicide does not clearly fall into that category.

- E. If you are having problems in this area, *do not deal with them alone—it is too dangerous*. You will benefit from the assistance of others. Contact me via any means you know about—phone, email, visit, private message on Signal, Facebook Messenger, etc. Look at the references below and find the resources they list at the end of each of the articles.

Conclusion

Comparing Peter to Judas, we see a cautionary tale. We must learn an important truth: it is so important for us to cultivate true repentance in our lives so that we handle sin properly. We cannot handle our faults in a self-centered way, for if we go very far down that path, we will be driven to despair. Our consciences will just bother us to no end. Especially with more serious consequential sins.

But God is able to help you. Take your sin back to the Lord—that is why He died. Do not try to handle it yourself, for it will not work.

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References

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-suicide-saved.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/suicide-Bible-Christian.html>