

Garden to Garden - Part 5

FAQs: Ruined By Regret (Matthew 27:1-10)

Q: is the story of Judas considered a tragedy, and how does it contrast with the story of Peter?

A: The story of Judas is a tragedy because it depicts betrayal, guilt, and ultimately, suicide. Unlike Peter, who also failed Jesus, but sought forgiveness and found restoration, Judas succumbed to despair and took his own life, illustrating the devastating consequences of rejecting Jesus and His grace.

Q: Does suicide condemn a person to hell?

A: No, the Bible does not teach that suicide condemns a person to hell. The only thing that condemns a person to hell is not turning in repentance and faith to Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. God's grace is greater than any sin, including suicide.

Q: What were some of the ways that Judas showed regret for his actions? Why was it not enough to save him?

A: Judas showed regret by changing his mind about his actions, returning the thirty pieces of silver, admitting his sin, and confessing the innocence of Jesus. However, his repentance was not coupled with faith in the saving power of Jesus. Instead of seeking forgiveness from Jesus, he despaired



and took his own life. He ran *from* Jesus rather than to Him, illustrating that remorse alone is insufficient for salvation.

Q: How does the story of Judas illustrate the futility of empty religion?

A: Judas, burdened by guilt, turns to the religious leaders for help, but they reject him, saying, "See to it yourself." This illustrates that a Christless religion is empty and futile, incapable of offering true hope or relief from sin's shame and guilt.

Q: How does the purchase of a field from a potter serve to remind us of God's control over our lives?

A: Even in the dark and troubling events surrounding Judas' betrayal and death, God is working according to His plan. Just as a potter shapes clay, God shapes the world and the events within it for His purposes. Even though we may only see the "wet dirt" of pain, loss, and unanswered questions, God, the Potter, is working to create something good and useful. The fulfilled prophecy from Jeremiah demonstrates that God knew and orchestrated these events long before they happened.

