

## THE END OF REMORSE AND REGRET

Matthew 27:3,5 ... “Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that he [Jesus] had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders...then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

Today's verses are from the account of Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus and caused him to be captured, tortured and killed. After Judas understood his mistake, he returned the reward he had been given for the arrest and committed suicide. It says that Judas was remorseful, which means that he felt unbearably horrible for the sin he had committed.

Do you feel that way about mistakes and sins you have committed in your life? Do you regret certain things you did and said? I do. Have you ever felt unbearably horrible for something you did? God allows us to experience regret and remorse to get our attention and to wake us up to our bad decision making.

Regret is what you feel when a good friend says, “Those words were hurtful,” or “What you did was not fair,” or “Because of your actions, I can never again trust you.” The remorse of hurting someone deeply may cause you to feel nausea in your stomach and dizziness in your head. The tears of those we hurt leave scars on our own hearts to remind us not to make the same mistakes again.

How do we shake-off the effects of regret and remorse? Well, in this life we must carry the scars of our mistakes even after we have been forgiven. The scars remain as a reminder to help us avoid repeating the same sins again. But the good news – really good news – is that we do not have to carry those scars to heaven. Revelation 21:4 reads: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Sorrow and tears are the result of our mistakes. Once we reach heaven, that will all disappear.

Perhaps you believe that if you arrive in heaven and find that your father, or sister, or spouse did not make it, you will be sad for eternity. However, that is impossible. Heaven is a place of unending happiness – no regrets or sadness are possible there. Because of that, you probably will not even remember the close friends and relatives who neglected their own salvation and were sent to hell. If you want to be reunited with your loved ones and friends in heaven, you need to witness to them NOW.

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