

## **The Suicide of Judas Iscariot**

The Christian church has long been divided theologically on the subject of a believer's suicide.

**As a general rule, Catholic theology views it as** being among the greatest of moral sins and in violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment.

(Ex.20:13) "You shall not murder."

(Gen.9:6) "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man." (Gen.1:26-27)

**As a general rule, the Protestant church views it as** a loss of Dying Grace and the opportunity to glorify God in death as in life - but not as a loss of a believer's salvation.

(Phil.1:20b-21) "**Christ will even now, as always, be exalted** in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die gain."

**There are seven recorded suicides in the Bible. But only one is recorded in the NT.**

Abimlech	(Judges 9:22-56)	Ahithophel	(2 Sam.17:23)
Samson	(Judges 16:29-31)	King Zimri	(1 Kings 16:18-19)
King Saul	(1 Sam.31:5)		
King Saul's armor bearer	(1 Sam.31:5)	<b>Judas Iscariot</b>	<b>(Matt.27:1-10)</b>

### **2010 National Statistics of USA by American Foundation for Suicide**

- 2010 – 38,364 suicides reported.
- Second leading cause of death of adults 18-65 years.
- Third leading cause of death among 15-24 years.
- Every 14 minutes a suicide in USA.
- There is a range from 8-25 estimated attempted for every suicide death.
- 90% have diagnosable disorders at the time of death.
- 60% suffer from major depression.
- Neuro-transmitter treatment may be helpful if a serotonin deficiency problem.

**We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletic points of the Suicide of Judas Iscariot.**

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|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Bound for death          | (Matt.27:1-2)     | Conspiracy (Matt.26:3-5, 45-50)   |
| • Betrayed by close friend | (Matt.27:3-4, 24) | Innocent blood [legal] (Prov.17:15, 20)   |
| • Blood money              | (Matt.27:5-6)     | (Matt.26:15; Zech.11:12-13; Ex.21:32)   |
| • Burial place             | (Matt.27:7-8)     | Field of Blood  |
| • Bible prophecies         | (Matt.27:9-10)    | (Zech.11:12-13; Ps.41:9; Jer.18:19:1-13; 32:6-9; Acts 1:16-20 (Ps.69:25; 109:8) |

**We will study three aspects of the Suicide of Judas Iscariot.**

**"God only winds the clock of human life once!"**

**1. Judas was a typical two-face pretender or hypocrite (hupokrites) [Greek stage actor] (Mk.7:6-8); (Lk.6:42).**

- He pretended to be the champion of the cause of the poor (Jn.12:1-8).
- He pretended to be saved (Jn.13:5-11).
- He pretended to be a close friend of Jesus (Jn. 13:18-21)
- He pretended to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ (Jn.13:22-30).

Judas had pretended so long that he became comfortable with what he was pretending (Rom.7:15-25). It had become his dominate Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) pattern of thinking and life style. (2 Cor.4:4; Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22-24)

**2. Judas had an important moment of reflection into this OMCD life style for change, much like the prodigal son had. (Luke 15:17-18; Matt.27:3-5)**

**Prodigal:** (Luke 15:18) “I have sinned against heaven and against you.”

**Judas:** (Matt.27:3a) “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

Unfortunately, Judas let guilt become remorse (metamelomai) rather than repentance (metanoia). Remorseful guilt broke his spirit and he went out and hung himself (Matt.27:3-5).

**Peter:** (Matt.26:69-75) “Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times”

He had a similar experience but turned his guilt into repentance” (Matt.26:75). Peter went out and wept bitterly and got back on his spiritual feet (**Heb.10:22**). Within 40 days, Peter preached one of his greatest sermons (Acts 2).

**3. The one factor that all seven biblical suicides have in common is a BROKEN SPIRIT.**

(Prov.18:14) “The spirit of a man can endure his sickness but a broken spirit who can bear?” (Prov.15:13) (Prov.17:22)

(Ps.42:5) “Why are you in despair O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall again praise Him.” (Ps.11; 43:5; Matt.26:38)

Despair is thinking that the misery felt now will be forever (**Job 7:16; 9:21**).

**Depression or broken spirit:** “I am benumbed and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes, even that has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague; and my kinmen stand afar off.” (Ps.38:8-10)

**NOTE:** 1 in every 200 episodes of depression end in suicide. 90% of suicides occur in people described as suffering from depression, yet are considered non-psychotic and legally competent.

**God can mend a broken spirit but you must not ignore God’s Grace Operating Assets.**

(Ps.46:1) “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Ps.91:2; Heb.4:16)

(Ps.34:18) “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps.147:3)

(Ps.51:10) “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Prov.17:22; 18:14)

(Ps.51:10) “Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.” (2 Cor.4:16-18)