

SUICIDE AND THE UNFORGIVEABLE SIN...

Primary Texts: **Mark 3:22-30; Matthew 12:22-32 (33-37)**

- Actual question... “When someone takes their own life... what happens to their souls?”
 - Answer:
 - Christ is the Judge, only He can say what happens to our eternal soul – John 5:22-27, John 9:39, Matthew 25:31-46, Acts 10:42, 2 Corinthians 5:10, etc.
 - The judgement for those that take their own life? The Bible does not give us that answer, not directly. For consideration: Romans 8:38-39; Matthew 12:31 (*part of our primary text for this lesson*)
- Incidents of Suicide in the Scripture (some may depend on your definition of suicide):
 - Judges 9:54 – Abimelech; Judges 16:26-31 – Samson; 1 Samuel 31:4-6 – Saul and Saul’s Armor-Bearer; 2 Samuel 17:23 – Ahithophel; 1 Kings 16:18 – Zimri; Matthew 27:5 – Judas
- Predominant “theological” thought:
 - Killing, more specifically “Murder”, is wrong – Exodus 20:13; Mark 10:19; Romans 13:9-10 (and suicide could be defined as “self-murder”, but again, that may depend on the interpretation of the definition and the situation... Judges 16:26-31 for example).
 - The idea that suicide is an “unforgivable sin” and those who take their own life go to Hell is not IN scripture, and the idea is promoted more by “Dante’s Inferno” than the Bible. BUT...
 - Part of it’s theological notion that “If you take your own life you can’t ask for forgiveness” and “if you can’t ask forgiveness then you can’t get forgiveness” ... BUT, do we REALLY “ask” forgiveness for ALL of our sins?
 - Two main types of “active” sin: Commission (the things we actually do, by thought, word, and deed) AND Omission (the things we SHOULD do, but DON’T... still guilty for what we DON’T do...)
 - Do we REALLY manage to “ask” forgiveness for ALL of our sins... BUT, if we’re not alive to “repent” can we be forgiven???
- According to the teachings of Christ, the only unforgiveable sin is “Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” – Mark 3:22-30; Matthew 12:22-32 (33-37)
 - Blasphemy is defined as “impious utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.” [dictionary.com]
 - From the Koine Greek, “blasphemia” is interpreted as blasphemy, slander, malicious talk.
 - Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has to do with accusing Christ of being demon-possessed instead of Spirit-filled – Mark 3:30; Matthew 12:31-32
 - The Holy Spirit, from a Jewish sense, had two functions: reveal God's truth and enable us to recognize that truth when we see it... *“There is only one condition of forgiveness and that is penitence. So long as a man sees loveliness in Christ, so long as he hates his sin even if he cannot leave it, even if he is in the mud and the mire, he can still be forgiven. But if a man, by repeated refusals of God's guidance, has lost the ability to recognize goodness when he sees it, if he has got his moral values inverted until evil to him is good and good to him is evil, then, even when he is confronted by Jesus, he is conscious of no sin; he cannot repent and therefore he can never be forgiven. That is the sin against the Holy Spirit.”* [William Barclay's Daily Study Bible]