

## Avoiding Regrets By Trey Sullins

Have you ever had regrets? Sometimes after people make mistakes or sin, we think to ourselves, “what were they thinking?” But when we really think about it, we live with these kinds of regretted decisions in our lives as well. How many times have we thought “I should have” or “I wish I had”? Throughout the Bible we find many examples of those who made decisions which they later regretted. We should learn from these examples so that we might never live with regrets.

The world in the days of Noah had great regret. In Genesis 6 and 7 there were possibly millions on the earth in that day. Man had grown increasingly wicked to the point that “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” 2 Peter 2:5 reveals that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness.” It is logical to conclude that Noah was attempting to warn the people of the earth about the coming destruction. No one followed him except for seven others of his family. When the rain started to fall and waters began to rise, no doubt the earth was filled with the regret of all those who chose wickedness over God.

Another great example is of Lot and the choice which he made. In Genesis 13:10-11 in order to avoid strife Abram offered Lot a choice of which lands he wanted to dwell in. Lot chose the plain of Jordan with some well-known wicked cities in the area. Once Lot visited these cities, he certainly knew of how great their wickedness was. In fact, in 2 Peter 2:7 the Bible reveals that Lot was oppressed by the “filthy conduct of the wicked.” Though all this wickedness was around him Lot remained in the area and even in the city of Sodom until Genesis 19, when God determined that He would destroy the city. Eventually while running from the city as God destroyed it Lot’s wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:25). It is very possible that most if not all of this oppression could have been avoided simply by choosing to leave this wicked area. If nothing else Lot’s wife would most likely have survived. It is safe to say that Lot probably had many regrets about the things he chose.

Judas Iscariot proves to be another example of someone with great regrets. Fairly early in the ministry of Christ we start to see signs of the downfall of Judas. In John 12:6 Judas is called a thief who was stealing money from the money box. John 13:2 says that the devil had already put Christ’s betrayal into the heart of Judas. Later, in John 13:27 Jesus reveals to the apostles that Judas would betray him. Although they did not understand (John 13:28), Judas certainly should have known what Jesus meant. However, Judas never appears to hesitate or pause in consideration of his choices. Eventually Judas goes through with the act and Jesus is arrested to face a fake trial and soon after death. Matthew 27:3 shows us something very about Judas. After he thinks about what he had done Judas took the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests. The verse says that he was “remorseful.” Some translations use the word “repented.” However, in the original language the word used is a word to indicate regret or remorse. It is unclear whether he was regretful over being caught or regretful over the fact that he betrayed his Lord and savior, (probably the former) but unable to bear this he hanged himself (Matthew 27:5). Once more his regrets could have been completely avoided had he made the right choices.

The Bible provides us with these powerful examples of the regrets that come from bad choices, but there are many more within its pages. One of the main things that we can learn from these

examples is to never allow ourselves to have these regrets. The way that we do that is by never allowing ourselves to make these bad choices and sin. Of course, we will all make bad choices and sin at times, but our goal and aim should be to keep these things out of our lives. Thankfully, our God provides us with an opportunity to be forgiven of these things as well. Philippians 3:13 gives great encouragement to this end: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.” Let us all strive to be the kind of Christians that never regret our walk for God.