

What Then Shall I Do With Jesus? (Matthew 27:19-23)

Sunday AM 12/23/18

Introduction:

When Jesus came down to this earth, when He took on the body of flesh, man was placed in the position of having to answer the above question. Jesus was brought before Pilate to be condemned. Pilate offered the Jews a choice; release Jesus or Barabbas. If they released Barabbas, Jesus would have to die. They choose Barabbas, which left Pilate with a dilemma. The Roman Governor understood little about Jesus and even less about the result of his decision. Today many do not understand the choice they have to make concerning Jesus.

I) Some Things Involved With this Question

A) It requires a definite answer, *Matthew 12.30*

1. We are either going to obey Him or reject Him.
2. Our answer has eternal consequences, *John 12.48*

B) Jesus is our only Savior (*Matthew 1.21*) and Mediator (*John 14.6*)

1. Who else lived a perfect life and now sits at the right hand of God?
2. God will not send another Savior, to reject Jesus is to reject all hope.

3. But we all know people who make bad decisions.

II) Notice What Some Have Done with Jesus

A) Judas - one of the 12, one who walked with Jesus, heard Him teach, saw Jesus perform miracles.

1. He betrayed Jesus.
2. He sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, *Matthew 26.14-15, 49.*
 - a. This was the price paid for a common slave.
 - b. I have known some who have sold out Jesus for less than that.
3. Judas lived to regret his decision as he committed suicide, *Matthew 27.3-5*
4. Let us beware that this was not the proper way to make things right with God.
5. Are you betraying Jesus? Are you selling out Jesus for wealth and pleasure of this world? If so, your eventual fate is no better than Judas.

B) Peter denied Him

1. In some ways Peter was like Judas. He was hand picked to be one of the 12. He walked with Jesus, heard Him teach, perform miracles, and talked with Jesus.

2. Yet when push came to shove, Peter followed from afar off, *Matthew 26.58*
3. He warned himself by the fire, and denied even knowing who Jesus was, *Mark 14.54*
4. Peter lacked courage in a hostile environment.
5. There are times we might find ourselves in a bad place, surrounded by bad people, and deny Jesus.
6. Peter made his way back to the Lord, you can too.

C) Pilate tried to be neutral.

1. But he knew the Jews had delivered up Jesus because of envy and Jesus was an innocent man.
2. He looked for ways to get out of the situation and remain neutral.
3. Thought he could "wash his hands" of the matter, *Matthew 27.23-24*
4. We cannot remain neutral concerning who Jesus is, either the Son of God or an imposter.
5. We cannot remain neutral on moral and doctrinal issues, *Matthew 27.30*.
6. Who is on the Lord's side?

D) The Jews crucified Him

1. I know what you are probably thinking, the Romans crucified Jesus.
2. The Romans carried out the deed but the Jews delivered Him, *Matthew 27.22,25*
3. Some after knowing Him, fall away, *Hebrews 6.4-6*
4. They crucify Him again, *Hebrews 10.29*

E) Demas forsook Him, *2 Timothy 4.10a*

1. Why? Because he loved this present world. *2 Timothy 4.10b.*
2. We are not told specifically what this meant but we have the general idea.
3. We need to remember; the things of this world are temporary.

F) Felix tried to postpone his decision

1. He looked for a more convenient season, *Acts 24.25*
2. To wait is to say no. With each no the conscience becomes more seared and heart more hardened.

G) Some (Paul, the Ethiopian Eunuch, Lydia, etc. accepted Jesus

1. They with stood the temptation to sell out Jesus for something temporary, or those things that appeal to the flesh, or peer pressure.
2. They accepted Jesus and have the crown of life.

Conclusion:

Today is the day of salvation (*2 Corinthians 6.2*). Today, we make our decision of what we will do with Jesus. On the Day of Judgement, the question will be, "What will He do with you?" (*2 Corinthians 5.10*).