

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

"What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ?" Matthew 27:22.

Jesus was the victim of misunderstanding as to Who He was, as to His purpose in the world, as to His relation to men, and as to His plan of redemption. He was the victim of blunders on the part of His honest followers, of indifference on the part of professed friends, of undying hatred that would not be satisfied with anything less than His overthrow and death.

It was on Thursday night, even toward sunrise on Friday morning, that Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane when the mob broke in upon Him. They placed the shackles on His wrists and led Him away to Pilate's court room where they presented Him as a political conspirator, a violator of Rome's most sacred law. Pilate examined Him and found no fault in Him but the mob was clamoring for the death penalty. Pilate's wife came in and told him not to get mixed up in that godless affair. He then suggested to the mob that he would release Jesus as that was the time of the year when some notorious prisoner should be released. But they commanded him to let Barabbas the robber go. Then Pilate asked the question, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" Then like demons from the depths of hell they cried, "Let Him be crucified." So the poor, pussy-footing, champion fence-straddler Pilate prostituted his official trust, sinned against the voice of God and his own science and sacrificed the Son of God to the passions of an infuriated mob.

I. This Is Life's Most Important Question.

This is true because everything worth-while in this life and in the next depends upon the answer given to it. If one does the right thing with Christ, he will get everything that is really worth having. If one does the wrong thing with Christ, he will lose everything that is worth having.

II. Everyone Must Answer This Question.

Vacillating, pliable Pilate faced this question. He tried to wriggle out of the place he was in and not answer it. He tried to get rid of Christ. He did not want to murder Him. It was evident to him, as well as others, that the accusers of Christ were seeking a verdict of death regardless of the facts or the cost. So, he tried to avoid doing anything with Christ, but he was unable to do so.

Pilate sent Christ Jesus to Herod. Thus he tried to put the responsibility on someone else. Men and women are still trying to do the same thing today. They will go to church and listen to God's message and then try to believe that it is for someone else, at least that it was not meant for them. When Herod sent the Saviour back to Pilate, he had Him scourged. Doubtless he thought that such brutal treatment would satisfy the Jews, and dispose of the matter. Then, he gave the Jews their choice between Barabbas and Christ.

What will you do with Christ? You must do something with Him. You cannot evade, avoid or escape this question. Neutrality respecting this question is impossible. No middle course is possible. Many do not want to do anything with Him, except to get Him off their hands. But, like Pilate, when you try that you will fail. Pilate did not want to crucify Him because he knew that Christ was innocent. On the other hand he was unwilling to release Christ because he knew it would make the Jews angry. And the opportunity of doing the right thing always imposes the obligation of doing it.

What can you do with Christ?

1. Accept or reject Him.

You will do the one or the other before you leave this service.

2. Confess or deny Him.
3. Crown or crucify Him in your heart.
4. Be His friend or His foe.
5. Love Him or hate Him.
6. Follow Him or turn away from Him.
7. Be for or against Him.

"He that is not with Me is against Me." Matthew 12:30.

There are only two ways in which you can answer this question, and each of you will answer it in one of these ways. Do the right thing with Him.

III. What Depends On Doing The Right Thing With Christ?

1. The forgiveness of sins.

Christ offers to forgive your sins if you will trust Him as your Saviour. "Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:43. The forgiveness of your sins does not depend on your prayers or your good works, but on what you do with Christ. And forgiveness is an unspeakable blessing. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalm 32:1. No other blessing is comparable to the forgiveness of your sins.

2. Acceptance with God.

Your acceptance with God is not based on your character or your works, but upon what you do with Christ. If you accept Christ, God will receive you. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18.

3. Peace of conscience.

It is a blessed thing to have a conscience that does not accuse you. An accusing conscience is the greatest misery on earth. Some try to overcome it in pleasure and dissipation, with drink and dope, in business, and in doing good works, but all who make such an attempt fail miserably. Christ alone can give one peace of conscience. "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." If you will do the right thing with Christ, you will receive true, deep, abiding and perfect peace.

4. Deliverance from the power of sin.

It is a dreadful thing to be in the power of sin. No other slavery is so binding, degrading and crushing as that of sin. It is an awful thing to be a slave of sin. However, there is a way to get instantaneous deliverance, and that is by doing the right thing with Christ. You cannot get out of the power of sin in any other way. Christ alone can save you from it.

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me."

5. Great joy.

"On Him though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I Peter 1:8. You can get great joy by doing the right thing with Christ, but in no other way. One who is not a Christian does not have a deep, constant and satisfying joy.

6. Eternal life.

This world does not have anything to compare with eternal life. It is that life of unutterable beauty, dignity, honor and glory. It is endless in its duration and perfect in its quality. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. What you do with Christ determines what He will do with you.

7. Becoming a child of God.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." Romans 8:17. Thus we become heirs of all that God has by doing the right thing with Christ.

8. Becoming like Him.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." I John 1:2.

IV. What Is The Right Thing To Do With Christ?

1. Receive Him as your Saviour.

He will not force you to receive Him, but you will be sorry if you don't. Receive Him as your Saviour for the penalty, the power and the consequences of sin.

2. Enthroned Him in your heart.

Sincerely say to Him, "Lord Jesus, take the throne of my heart and live and reign there supremely."

3. Confess Him before the world.

"Whosoever therefore who shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33.

4. Witness to others about Him.

By this means you will be able to bring many to Him.

V. When Are You Going To Answer This Question?

You cannot answer it yesterday, because you can never call back that opportunity. You cannot answer it tomorrow, because it may never come. The Word says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." So, there is only one time to decide and to answer this question, and that is now.

"Now is the accepted time." Now is God's time, and He always knows best. Now is the right time to do the proper thing with Christ, and that which is right cannot be done too soon. Now is the safe time, and it might be the only time.

Do the right thing with Christ by accepting Him as your Saviour now. That will have so much to do with you personally. It will certainly determine whether or not you will be saved. On your acceptance or rejection of Him hangs your eternal destiny. It will have much to do with your relationship to and influence over other lives. The most useful and helpful life is impossible if you do the wrong thing with Christ. If you reject Christ, others will do likewise. Do the right thing with Him now by accepting Him as your Saviour, enthroning Him as your Lord, confessing Him before men, and yielding your life to Him in full surrender and joyous service.