**What shall I do with Jesus?**

*Matthew 27:22*

**Introduction**

1. After Jesus faced the Sanhedrin, the Jewish leaders further conspired against Him and sent Him to the Roman governor over Judea, Pontius Pilate – **Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26**
   1. Consider Pilate’s question – **(v. 22)** – it is better understood by his other responses.
      1. **(v. 23)** – He was convinced of Jesus’ innocence.
      2. **(v. 24)** – He was aware of the injustice taking place and sought to ease his conscience.
      3. Pilate was convicted in some way concerning Jesus – most obviously His innocence.
      4. His question was directed toward the Jews, but no doubt toward himself.
      5. Pilate made a decision on what he’d do with Jesus.
2. This question Pilate asked truly carries some deeper implications which we must all consider – What shall I do with Jesus?
3. The Nature of the Question
4. Universal
   1. Due to the circumstances of His presence – **John 3:16** – for the world’s salvation.
   2. Due to the universal need – **Romans 3:23; 1:16** – sin, and the only escape from sin in Christ through the gospel.
   3. This topic concerns the whole human race – past, present, and future.
5. Life Changing
   1. There must be an encounter with Jesus in some way:
      1. God leaves man without an excuse – **Romans 1:20** – example of the Gentiles rejection of God.
   2. Once one has learned the truth about Christ, he can never be the same – for the better or the worse – **1 Peter 2:6-8** – either a precious chief cornerstone, or one of stumbling and offense.
6. The Content of the Question
7. Object – Jesus
   1. The Author of all that is good:
      1. **James 1:17** – everything good from God.
      2. **John 1:1-3** – Jesus is one with God, and all made things were through His agency.
         1. From the basic necessities we take for granted – food, water, clothing – to the most wonderful matters in life under the sun – family, relationships, etc.
         2. Consider that all this emanates from the Father, and the SON – HOW MUCH GREATER CAN HE BE THAN THAT WHICH HE GIVES?
   2. Despite the plethora of good gifts that all men receive in this physical life from Jesus, He identifies a gift far superior – **John 4:10, 13-14; 6:27, 32-33** – living water, and bread from heaven.
      1. I.e. eternal life – **John 6:57-58**
      2. **John 14:6** – the only one that can offer it.
         1. God’s only spokesman to man – **Hebrews 1:2**
         2. Only mediator between God and man – **1 Timothy 2:5**
         3. Man’s only savior – **Matthew 1:21; Acts 4:12**
         4. The only perfect example to be followed – **1 Peter 2:21-22**
         5. The only standard by which we will be judged – **John 12:48**
8. Subject – “I” – Each Individual
   1. This is personal.
   2. As far as each of us are concerned, this is only about “me, myself, and I.”
   3. **2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12** – each one will answer for what he has done.
9. Verb – “shall I do” – There is no true middle ground. Even passivity is an action.
10. What Some Do with Jesus
11. Reject Him
    1. Some do not care what evidence exists, or what Jesus has to offer. They are blinded by the present world.
    2. They are the wayside soil – **Luke 8:12**
    3. Their rejection is not based on opposing facts, for the facts are on Jesus’ side. They reject Him because they do not wish to submit to Him – **Acts 4:16-17** (When Peter and John healed the lame man in Jesus’ name.)
12. Show Mild Curiosity About Him
    1. Some are not seriously interested but are mildly drawn out of pure curiosity (not for deeper reasons, like seeking truth). (Window shoppers)
    2. **Luke 23:8** – concerning Herod when Pilate sent Jesus to him.
       1. “Godet graphically sums up the situation: ‘Jesus was to Herod Antipas what a juggler is to a sated court—an object of curiosity. But Jesus did not lend himself to such a part; he had neither words nor miracles for a man so disposed, in whom, besides, he saw with horror the murderer of John the Baptist.’” (Pulpit Commentary; Luke 23:8)
       2. Obviously not seriously interested – **(vv. 9-11)** – mistreated Jesus severely.
    3. Many sought Jesus for the things He did, but not for what they signified – **John 6:26**
    4. Equivalent:
       1. Those who simply enjoy the social aspect of religion.
       2. Those who view the Bible as a literary masterpiece with wonderful stories, and as nothing greater.
       3. Those who are Bible scholars, but do not conform to the image of Christ.
13. Are Hesitant to Believe in Him
    1. Some have plenty of evidence before them, and are persuaded to some degree, but have other matters keeping them from confessing Christ and making a change.
    2. Like Agrippa – **Acts 26:24-29**
       1. **(v. 24)** – charged with madness by Festus.
       2. **(vv. 25-27)** – affirmation of soundness of mind and argument with an appeal to Agrippa who knows the Old Law of the Jews.
       3. **(v. 28)** – Agrippa shows an agreement with Paul’s logic.
       4. **(v. 29)** – Paul’s wish.
       5. Whatever held Agrippa back is mere conjecture – it’s just not known – but it is obvious he was hesitant, and perhaps stubborn.
    3. Some have the conviction, but not the faith – **Matthew 19:20-22** – Rich young ruler.
       1. He had an obvious understanding of the Law, and of what Jesus was showing Himself to be.
       2. However, his faith was in riches.
    4. Equivalent:
       1. Those who will never see enough proof – almost persuaded – need more evidence on top of the pile of evidence that already exists.
       2. Those who see the truth, but won’t part with worldliness (sin), family, tradition, man-made religion, etc.
14. Seek to Reform Him
    1. Some see something unique in Jesus they like, but they are not happy with the rest. So, they only accept what they like about Him, and seek to change the rest – “THIS IS THE JESUS I BELIEVE IN,” they say.
    2. Gnostics – **1 John 2:22-23; 4:3** – did not accept the truth about Jesus concerning His corporeal presence – humanity.
       1. Rested in part on the false notion that flesh is inherently sinful.
       2. Logical implication – Jesus did not really inhabit the flesh.
       3. An attractive implication – it matters not what we do in the flesh since it is inherently sinful anyway – it doesn’t affect our soul.
    3. **2 Peter 3:15-16** – some twist the writings of Paul (which are the words of Jesus) to their own destruction.
       1. Turn the grace of God into lewdness – **Jude 4**
    4. Jesus must be accepted as He is, and in totality.
    5. Equivalent:
       1. Denominationalism – those who think it doesn’t matter what your particular view of Jesus is as long as you believe in Him – make Him your own. (Personal savior – connotation of personalizing Him to be what you want Him to be.)
       2. Those who seek to distinguish gospel from doctrine – moral and doctrinal matters aren’t important, rather, just belief in the deity and humanity of Jesus.
       3. Those who make light of sin, and project Jesus as a pushover.
15. Let Others Deal with Him
    1. Some are too troubled by the question, even if they know the truth and what they should do with it, and they pass it off on others as if it frees them from the responsibility.
    2. Pilate – **Matthew 27:17-18, 22-24**
       1. **(v. 17-18)** – knew the accusations were false, and out of envy.
       2. **(vv. 22-23)** – tried to reason with them briefly concerning His innocence.
       3. **(v. 24)** – Passively washed his hands of the matter. (Did not hold any true significance – PILATE WAS GUILTY.)
       4. Pilate sought neutrality – tried to act as if he wasn’t a player in the Jew’s game, BUT HE WAS.
    3. Equivalent:
       1. When some view spiritual matters as things which don’t concern them, when they know others who take it very seriously.
       2. Christians who act as though spiritual matters/responsibilities belong to some, but not themselves. (Members of the church who don’t act like members – are not active – do not own it themselves – not truly invested.)
16. Put Him to the Side
    1. Some understand the truth, and know they need to obey it, and may even intend to obey it, but procrastinate.
    2. Like Felix – **Acts 24:24-27** – go away until a more convenient season, which never came.
    3. **James 4:13-17** – those who make plans without prioritizing God, and considering the brevity of life.
    4. Equivalent:
       1. Those who know they’re in sin but decide to gamble their lives by putting off repentance for another day.
       2. Those who are sitting in the pew who know the gospel and know what they need to do but leave without taking action.
17. What You Need to Do – **Matthew 11:28-30** – come to Jesus, accept His invitation, and submit to His yoke – obey Him.

**Conclusion**

1. Today, Jesus stands before each of us and we all must answer the question, “What shall I do with Jesus?”
2. One day these roles will be reversed, and Jesus will be asking the question, “What shall I do with you?”
3. What will Jesus do with you?
   1. **John 12:48** – determined by His word.