

Matt. 27:II-26

Text: "What shall I then do with Jesus which is called Christ."

Introduction:

There are many heart-moving scenes in the Bible. Let us notice a few in passing.

1. Abraham going to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice Isaac.
2. The story of Hosea.
3. Beheading of John the Baptist.
4. The rich young ruler.
5. The Gadarenes request.

6. In Matt. 27 we have one of the most heart-moving scenes in the Scriptures. Jesus stood before Pilate accused by the Jewish leaders. Jesus had been preaching for three years. He had done nothing in a corner or under cover. His speeches, His preaching, His teaching had been in the open, and before the public. He went about doing good. Healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, giving speech to the speechless and hearing to those who were deaf and in some cases restored the ~~life back to~~ dead back to life. Here in this lesson we find Him standing before Pilate, accused by the Jewish leaders.

They arrested Him without grounds, and accused Him without cause. The Jewish leaders accused Him of treason, and based their accusation on three counts, any one of which was a capital crime if proved.

- 1/ He was accused of sedition, stirring up the people to revolt.
2. Accused of opposing Caesar,
- 3/ He claimed to be King himself. Luke 23:2

Pilate was troubled because of this strange Prisoner. Every man is troubled when brought into the light of His presence. Pilate made several attempts to rid himself of the responsibility of doing something with Jesus.

1. His first attempt was to shift the responsibility to ~~another~~ other shoulders. SENT HIM TO HEROD.

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b. Second, the question requires action. "What shall I DO with Jesus? Pilate recognized that he had to act. Dear friend, you too, must do something with Jesus. The jailer asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?"

- a. Keeping the golden rule?
- b. Paying my honest debts?
- c. Paying my tithe?
- d. Baptism, Lord's Supper, church membership?

Then this is a question about Jesus. "What shall I then do with Jesus?" Not what will you do about church, baptism, Lord's Supper, but what will you do with Jesus? "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

ILLUSTRATION:

A missionary to China told this story about a pagan woman who heard her first gospel story or message and was saved. She had walked twenty miles to here the good news and twenty miles back. The next morning she forgot the name of her new-found Saviour. She walked the twenty miles back to the missionary's home and run through the door of the mission station and said, "Oh, I know He saves me, but I have forgotten His name. Will you tell me that name again?" They told her the name of Jesus. She cried, joyfully, "Oh, yes. That's the name. It is Jesus. Then she started out for her twenty mile walk, saying His name over and over again so she would not forget it. THERE IS NO OTHER NAME LIKE HIS NAME.

2. ETERNAL ISSUES ARE INVOLVED HERE. Notice what depends on the choice, of what we do with Jesus.

1. It is a choice between one of two master's
2. Choice between one of two lives.
3. Choice between one of two deaths
4. Choice between one of two resurrections
5. Choice between one of two positions at judgment
6. Choice between heaven or hell.

Annas chose against Christ and died in disgrace. Caiaphas decided against Christ and was banished to exile and died of a loathsome disease. Caiaphas lost his position and never regained it.

2. His second effort was to make the people choose. He stood Christ beside Barabbas and asked, "Whom shall I deliver unto you this day?" The mob cried for Barabbas and said let Jesus be crucified.

3. His third effort was to scourged Jesus.

His last vain effort to free himself from this fearful responsibility was that of washing his hands in a basin of water. Pilate then cried, "See ye to it." They cried, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him. Let His blood be upon us and upon our children, but crucify Him." From that moment the judgments of God have rested upon the Jews.

Let us notice for a bit his second effort to free himself from the fearful responsibility. He tried to make the people responsible. He stood Christ beside Barabbas and said, "Whom shall I deliver unto you this day?" They cried for Barabbas and said let Jesus be crucified. Then, "Pilate saith unto them what shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" A tremendously important question, isn't it? IT WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL STUDY TO NOTE WHAT THE DIFFERENT PROMINENT CHARACTERS IN THE PASSION HISTORY DID WITH JESUS.

- 1. Judas, betrayed Him.
- 2. Peter, denied Him.
- 3. Chief priests and elders condemned Him.
- 4. Pilate, compromised Him.
- 5. The soldiers mocked Him.

Let us get back to the text, "What shall I then do with Jesus which is called Christ?"

I, First let us analyze the question.

a. It is a personal question. "What shall (I) do with Jesus?" I must do something about this myself. In a barber shop in Decatur Texas, some years ago, a man said, "Do you know what I am counting on to get me to heaven?" The barber said, "No." The man continued, "I am counting on the prayers of my mother. I know she has been praying for me for over thirty years. I believe her prayers will be answered, so I don't worry about it. That man was mistaken, for this matter of getting saved is a personal matter. "What must I do?"