

What Shall I Do With Jesus?

Introduction. In the KJV, there are 2,540 questions, but of all the questions in the Bible, the most significant is the one Pilate asked in Matthew 27:22. As Jesus stood before the governor and was questioned, Pilate found Him innocent and asked, "What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ?"

After one has learned the truth about Christ, one can never be the same again (John 15:21-22). One is either better by obeying or worse by rejecting the knowledge of Jesus (John 9:39-41). On a spiritual plane, this question means a great deal to us. Whether you want to or not, you have to answer this question at some time in your life.

No one can answer this question for you, and it is not a trivial question — it is a question of eternal life — the highest destination of mankind (John 14:6; 2 Timothy 1:8-10). We will look at how seven different people or groups in the New Testament answered this question and see if our answers are the same.

I. Pilate Wanted To Stay Neutral Toward Him

- A. Although it was expedient for Pilate to remain neutral, the fact was he could not (Matthew 27:24).
- B. There is no neutral ground where Jesus is concerned (Matthew 12:30; cp. 6:24; Romans 6:16). Of course, you can reject Him, but you cannot reject Him and please God. Jesus is God's spokesman to us now and the only mediator between God and man (Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:5). There is no alternative to which we can turn, such as Buddha or Mohammad.

II. Judas Wanted To Sell Him

- A. Judas will always be remembered as wanting to sell Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16). Are you willing to sell Jesus for a little more money? We work and work, and for what? A few luxuries that will not go into eternity (Ecclesiastes 5:10-15).
- B. One of the strongest impulses in American society is the drive to make money. But the desire for money, or covetousness, is condemned in the Bible (Luke 12:15; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).

III. The Jews Wanted To Crucify Him

- A. The Jews had wanted to kill Jesus for some time (John 5:16, 18; cp. Matthew 27:22). If you have went back to the world, you have crucified someone who was once your Savior (Hebrews 6:4-6; cp. 10:29).

- B. No one can literally crucify Jesus again; the Hebrew writer used a very graphic way to depict the seriousness of unfaithfulness to the Lord (2 Peter 2:20-22).

IV. The Disciples Wanted To Leave Him

- A. Jesus said in John 6:53-58 that His disciples must partake of Him fully and follow Him completely. But they misunderstood by thinking He spoke literally of His flesh and blood (vv. 60-63). These demands caused some of them to leave (v. 66).
- B. Making a decision to follow Him is not a light one. Count the cost before you begin (Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 12:1-2). Christians may have to endure persecution or ridicule to be faithful (Matthew 13:21; 2 Timothy 3:12). These trials will pull a Christian away from the Lord, but once you make the decision you cannot look back (Luke 9:58-62).

V. Felix Wanted To Postpone Him

- A. In Acts 24:24, Paul had the chance to preach to Felix, who was the corrupt governor of Judea. Paul not only preached to him, but also to his unlawful wife, Druscilla. In response, Felix postponed Him (v. 25).
- B. Our greatest enemy is tomorrow. Satan does not have to destroy your faith in God or your belief in the essential work of the gospel. All he has to do is get you to wait until tomorrow (cp. Numbers 14:39-45; Deuteronomy 1:39-45).
- C. In Acts 2:37, when Peter convicted those men of killing Jesus, Luke records that they were "pricked in their heart." "Pricked" means "to be pained in the mind sharply; violently agitated." They felt the anguish of sin and acted on it. But what if they had waited until the next day when the feeling diminished?

VI. Agrippa Was Almost Persuaded By Him

- A. In Acts 26, Paul stood before Agrippa and preached the gospel to him. What makes his situation noteworthy is that he came very close to obeying (vv. 28-29).
- B. Although a lot of people believe they will be saved by "being very close," this will not save us. Hebrews 11 shows that when the people of the Old Testament believed, they would act on that belief and follow God (cp. Mark 1:14-15). Once we believe, we should obey God without delay (Acts 16:33).
- C. If good intentions were enough, a lot of people would be saved. One of the sternest examples of a good intention falling short would be Uzzah's attempt to keep the ark from falling (2 Samuel 6:3-7).

VII. Those At Pentecost Obeyed Him

- A. Last of all, the Jews at Pentecost obeyed Him (Acts 2:37-41). Those who received Him were given the right to become children of God (John 1:12; Hebrews 5:8-9).
- B. How did the people at Pentecost obey Jesus?
 - 1. They had faith in Jesus (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6).
 - 2. They had to repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
 - 3. They had to confess Jesus as God's Son (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10).
 - 4. They had to be baptized to wash away their sins (Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27).
- C. The one who obeys the decrees of Christ has complete assurance that they will be saved (Matthew 7:21; John 12:48; cp. Romans 8:16).

Conclusion. Jesus now stands before us and we must decide what to do with Him (Revelation 3:20). One day this situation will be reversed, for we will be presented before God and Jesus Himself will decide our eternal destination (John 5:28-29). What He does with us depends on what you do with Him today.

What will you do with Jesus? We are talking about the decision between eternal bliss or the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. What will be your decision (Jeremiah 36:2-3; Ezekiel 33:11)? No one is guaranteed another day to decide what they should do with Jesus (Psalm 39:4-5), so today is your day of decision.