

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH JESUS?

May 3, 2105

Each day that we live we are faced with choices. From the moment we rise from bed, until we pillow our heads at night, we make choices. Though we do make a variety of decisions every day, the most important decision we will ever make is to determine what we will do with Jesus.

As He was enduring the final stages of an illegal trial, Jesus stood before Pilate. The governor of Judea was all that stood between Jesus and His being murdered at the hands of the Romans and the Jews, as far as the physical world was concerned. Pilate had the power to free Jesus from the hands of His enemies, but he was also a politician, and being a politician, he did not like the position in which he had been placed by the Jewish leaders of the day. He wanted to release an innocent man, but he also wanted to placate the religious leaders of Jerusalem at the same time. Pilate was trying to satisfy what little morality he had while trying to satisfy the enemies of God at the same time. Jesus commanded, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”** (Mt. 6:24).

Pilate’s sincerity should be questioned, but we cannot overlook the importance of the question that he asked. It is a question that comes to every person who hears the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:17; 2 Thess. 2:14), “What will I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked that very question when he said to the Jews, “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ” (Mt. 27:22). His answer to that choice was addressed in several different ways.

To begin with, Pilate chose to be silent regarding Jesus. Instead of stepping forward and doing that which was right, he simply said nothing. When he stands before the Judge of all men, Pilate will hear, **“whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven”** (Mt. 10:33). If we choose to ignore Christ and remain silent in this life, He will deny us in the next.

Pilate also tried to separate himself from Christ. He didn’t want to be against Him, but he did not want to be for Him either. Christ exclaimed, **“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad”** (Mt. 12:30). Pilate was in a bad situation, but washing his hands of the matter was not an available choice (Mt. 27:24).

There are many in the world who have chosen to wait for a convenient time before they choose what to do with Jesus. When the great apostle Paul stood before Felix, the Judean ruler some thirty years after Christ, he “reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come” (Acts 24:25). However, Felix chose to say, “Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” The sad thing about that choice is that there is never a convenient time! We are not guaranteed any time beyond the present moment (Js. 4:14). In fact, Paul said “now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). The only choice that God will accept is for each of us to hear and obey His beloved Son (Mt. 17:5; Jn. 14:15).

God’s plan of salvation, found in the Bible, is to believe on Christ (Heb. 11:6), repent of all past sins (Acts 2:38), confess that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21), and to live a faithful life (2 Tim. 4:6-8).