

What Will You Do With Jesus ?

Introduction; Many times we get a gift.

- A. We then decide what to do with it.
 - 1. It may be something we need and we are really thankful and use it immediately.
 - 2. It may be something good but we don't need it so we save it to later give to someone else.
 - 3. Or it may be something with no value whatsoever. We throw it away and forget about it.
- B. Sometimes we get a gift we do need.
 - 1. However it isn't something we want. It is practical but unwanted. Parents often give gifts like this to their children.
 - 2. We may set it aside and plan to use it later. Sometimes we do make time to use it.
 - 3. Or we may go ahead and throw it away or give it away because, even though we need it, we simply don't want it.
 - 4. Many set it aside and intend to use it later. However they never get around to it and it remains unused and wasted.
- C. God has given man a great gift.
 - 1. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*
 - 2. This is a gift that all of us need. There isn't a person on the face of the earth from the time of Adam till now that doesn't need the gift of the Son of God.
 - 3. There are some that appreciate this gift and take advantage of it. Others do not want it and completely reject the death of Christ.
 - 4. Still others recognize the value of Jesus' death and intend to take advantage of it **someday**. Yet they never get around to doing so.
 - 5. Still Jehovah has given us this gift and we must decide what to do with Him. The Bible shows many made different choices of what to do with Jesus.
- D. Today we will talk about, "What Will I Do With Jesus Christ?"

I. Pilate asked the Jews this important question.

- A. In Matthew 27 Pilate is between a rock and a hard place.
 - 1. He is the Roman governor of a very stubborn and troublesome people. He is supposed to enforce the Roman law and peace in Palestine.
 - 2. The Jews make a lot of trouble for him. Eventually they cause him to be recalled to Rome. He must balance enforcing Roman law and making the people happy.
 - 3. Dealing with Jesus was probably not that important to Rome. Yet it was the most important event of all time.
- B. Pilate had to decide what to do with Jesus.
 - 1. **Matthew 27:1-10;** This is background of Jesus' arrest and trial. The Jews have paid one of His disciples to betray Him. Judas tries to undo what he had done but cannot.
 - 2. **Vs 11-14;** Pilate is amazed at Jesus. He has not had a case like this. The Jews have no real evidence against Jesus but Jesus does not defend Himself.
 - 3. **Vs 15-18;** Pilate knows he cannot persuade the Jewish Rulers to release Jesus. He decided to get the people to release Him. Normally Pilate would not care about one Jew. However for some reason Jesus becomes very important to him.
 - 4. **Vs 19-21;** The Romans placed a lot of importance on dreams. Pilate really wants to release this man named Jesus. While Pilate is considering his wife's message the Jewish leaders persuade the crowd to ask for Barabbas.
 - 5. **Vs 22-26;** Pilate asks this very important question, "What shall I do with Jesus?" They tell him to crucify Him. Pilate declares His innocence but they insist on crucifying Him.

6. Pilate is the Roman governor in charge of enforcing the law. He knows Jesus is innocent. Yet, like many politicians, he gives in to the will of the people and does the wrong thing.
7. Jesus was not the first person to be sacrificed by a politician for his own career. He was not the last either. We see what Pilate did with Jesus Christ.

C. We see that out of the mouth of a politician comes a very important and profound question.

II. Many reject the gift of Jesus.

A. Everyone must decide what to do with Christ.

1. We have seen the choice of several. Many in the N.T. had to make their own choice.
2. Most decided to reject the free gift of God. They do so in different ways but that is still their choice.

B. Judas decided to **sell** Him.

1. We saw that Judas regretted his choice. Lets see where he decides to sell Him.
2. *Matt 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.*
3. Judas knew the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Judas loved money. He even stole from Jesus and the disciples. His love of money made him sell God's precious gift.
4. *John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.*
5. *1 Tim 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
6. Judas was sorry for what he did. He knew better because he traveled with Jesus and know who He really was. Yet he loved the world more. Many follow his sad example.

C. Pilate **washed his hands** of Jesus.

1. Pilate also knew better. He knew Jesus was innocent. He knew what his job was. Yet he decided to allow Jesus to be killed.
2. He claimed to wash his hands of the blood of Christ —Matt 27:24. Yet he was still the judge. He was the man in charge. We cannot just decided we are no longer responsible for the job we have, whatever it is.
3. *Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*
4. Pilate wanted to serve two masters. He wanted to serve Rome and the law. He wanted to do right. Yet he also wanted to do the expedient thing to keep the masses happy.
5. He really served neither one. In just a few years the Jews will complain and he will be recalled to Rome. He is then lost to history.

D. The Jews **crucified** Jesus Christ.

1. Pilate was not innocent in crucifying Jesus Christ and neither were the Jews —Matt 27:25,6. They accepted the blood of Christ and later were accountable for it —AD 70. They could not speak for their children.
2. The Jews were without excuse. Jesus had been teaching and preaching among them for about three years. They should have known who He was.
3. *John 3:1-2 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*
4. Jesus had entered Jerusalem just a few days before to shouts of "Hosanna to the Son of David" —Matt 21:1-11. He had cleansed the temple —vs 12-17. They had no excuse.
5. *Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the*

Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

7. Many Christians, who also know better, still crucify Jesus Christ. When they turn away from the church of their Lord they shame and crucify Him again.

E. Peter **denied** Jesus, his Lord.

1. *Matt 26:31-34 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'³² "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*
2. Peter knew better. He followed Jesus for about three years and confessed Him as the Messiah, the Son of God—Matt 16:16. He knows the right thing to do and wants to do it. But He is weak.
3. *Matt 26:69-72 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."⁷¹ And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I don't know the Man!"*
4. Peter denied Jesus directly by his words. Many still do this today. Yet many also deny Him by their deeds. They do not live as followers of Jesus Christ should. They curse and use foul language that Jesus could never think of using.
5. President Lincoln said, "To keep silent when we should speak up makes cowards of each of us." We can also deny the Lord by our silence and fear.
6. *Matt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*
7. *Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

F. Felix **put off** following Jesus.

1. *Acts 24:24-26 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."²⁶ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.*
2. Felix heard the truth and believed it. He had no righteousness and self-control according to early historians. He was therefore afraid of the judgment.
3. He seemed to sooth his conscience by saying he would accept the gift of God later. He had good intentions but never got around to following the Lord.
4. Many are like this today. They know the gift of Christ is good and will save them. They want to follow Him tomorrow. Yet tomorrow often never comes.
5. *Eccl 12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them!"*
6. *Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*
7. *2 Cor 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

G. Agrippa was **almost persuaded**.

1. *Acts 26:27-29 "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."²⁹ And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."*
2. Agrippa heard the gospel and knew enough about what Paul said to know they were true. We do not know if Agrippa was sincere or sarcastic. Paul seems to have thought he was sincere.
3. Many know enough to obey the gospel and even have a desire to do so. Yet they love the things of the world more. Almost is not enough.

4. *Matt 19:20-22 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

H. We see many who chose to reject Jesus Christ. Most still do.

III. Some did accept the free gift of God.

A. Scripture is full of folks who rejected Jesus.

1. Things have not changed. Most of the world still rejects Him. Even most who claim to know and follow Him reject Him by their words and deeds.
2. Yet there are also many who chose to accept the free gift of God. By studying their example we can learn how to follow Him.

B. Three thousand followed Him on the day of Pentecost.

1. Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for power from on high. This was fulfilled with the coming of the H.S. in Acts 2. By the direction of the H.S. they preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. **Acts 2:22-24**; Peter tells the people they killed the Messiah. He was buried but God raised Him from the dead.
3. **Vs 25-31**; This was prophesied by David a thousand years earlier. These events were not random but directed by God.
4. **Vs 32-36**; The disciples were witnesses of Jesus' resurrection and also His ascension. He is exalted to the right hand of God. This was also prophesied.
5. **Vs 37**; The folks on Pentecost have been confronted by what God had done through Jesus Christ. They do not want to remain in their sins and ask what to do.
6. This is what we should really do with Jesus Christ. If we do not know how to receive the free gift of God we must ask someone who knows. Peter knows and tells them.
7. **Vs 38-39**; They must repent of their sins and be baptized to be forgiven of their sins. This promise is not only for them but also for their children and all who are far off —probably the Gentiles.
8. **Vs 40-41**; We see that 3000 received the Lord. They were baptized into His death and raised with Him —Rom 6:3-7. Their sins are washed away and they are now children of God. They have received the gift of Jesus Christ.
9. They have accepted God's free gift —Rom 5:15-18. They have accepted it and used it and been blessed for doing so.

C. Many other passages tell us to do the same things the folks did on Pentecost did.

1. We are to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who willingly died for our sins. His blood can wash away our wickedness and make us righteous before God.
2. We must repent of our sins. We are sorry for them and turn away from them. We turn to the Lord and strive to follow Him.
3. We are then buried with Him in baptism —Rom 6:3-7. We share His death, burial and resurrection. Our sins are washed away by His blood and we become children of God.
4. *Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*
5. This is how we accept the gift of God. This is how we are blessed by being forgiven by the blood of Christ. Jesus sent His disciples into all the world to teach this.
6. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
7. The choice comes to all of us. What will we do with Jesus? Will we reject Him as so many did? Or will we obey Him as the three thousand did on Pentecost. We must decide.
8. *Gal 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

D. Those who accept the gift of God are blessed.

Conclusion; What will I do with Jesus?

A. We have the free gift of God before us.

1. We can reject it. We can put off obeying. We must remember though, that good intentions never saved anyone. We must do what we know is right to do.
2. Most are lost. Even many Christians are lost. They are lost because they reject the gift of God and prefer the things of the world.
3. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*
4. *2 Cor 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*
5. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. We need to obey the truth now.

B. We need to carefully think of the answer we are giving to the question, **“What will you do with Jesus?”**

C. If we can help anyone obey God, please let us.