

THE GREAT QUESTION

Matthew 27:22

Introduction: It is said that we only have to live, die and pay taxes, but there is another thing we must do and that is to face a personal question which our text asks. It is a question asked by Pilate when Jesus was on trial before him, "*What shall I do with Jesus..?*"

Pilate trifled with it and made a shipwreck out of his life. Everybody who trifles with that same question will also make a wreck out of his/her life for all eternity. "*What shall I do with Jesus...?*" is our question just as it was Pilate's. He was called upon to answer that question a long time ago, now WE are called to answer the same question today. Each one of us will answer that question. How will you answer it?

I. WHAT CAN I DO WITH JESUS?

1. We must do something.
 - The question cannot be evaded.
 - The question cannot be escaped, where will you go to escape from it?
 - One cannot be neutral for we are all condemned already
2. We can accept Jesus as Savior or we can reject Him and turn away.
 - We can crown Jesus as our Savior.
 - We can put Him away and have nothing to do with Him.
 - We have to do one of these two things. There are no other choices.
3. We can either accept Jesus as Savior or reject Him.
 - We can either follow after Him or turn away from Him.
 - We can either say, "yes" to Him or "no" to Him.
 - We are either for Jesus or we are against Him. Again, no middle ground.
4. We must choose one or the other of the two choices.

II. WHO IS TO DECIDE THE QUESTION, "WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?"

1. There is only one person to answer that question, "WHO?"
 - Certainly not your enemies.
 - Certainly not your friends, no matter how true.
 - No matter how much they have helped you before, they cannot answer this question for you, nor can any loved one or relative.
 - It is a question you must answer all by yourself.
2. You, however, are not forced to decide.
 - You are not coerced in any way to decide.
 - You are not compelled by some force.
 - Jesus stands before you and asks, "*What will you do with me...?*"

- What is it going to be?
 - You must do something.
 - Nobody will compel you.
 - Nobody will coerce you.
 - Nobody will drive you.
 - Nobody will force you.
 - You must face that question all by yourself. It is one of the unwritten "musts" of life. Nobody makes you breathe, but you do. Nobody makes you eat, but you do. The question of what to do with Jesus is like breathing and eating, nobody makes you do those things but you do because they are necessary. So is answering this question.
3. We are awarded the highest dignity of human life and at the same time face the greatest danger to human life.
 - We can say "yes" or "no" to God.
 - Little, insignificant human beings, made by the great Creator who have the right to say "yes" or "no" to the very one who created us.
 4. There is no danger to compare with the danger of deciding what to do with Jesus.
 - One can take this great power of decision and ruin him/herself. One can ruin his/her soul. one can ruin all that pertains to him/her by making the wrong choice.
 - God is not to blame if a person makes the wrong choice. God will not be at fault if one's soul is sent to Hell.
 5. Hear what God says"
 - *"As I live saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live."*
 - *"Turn ye, turn ye, from your evil ways; for why will ye die?"*
 - Jesus weeps and cries out, *"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathereth her brood under her wings but ye would not.."*
 - Jesus is never at fault when a soul misses the upward way. If any person, young, middle aged, or old, here today were to be sent to Hell, it would not be God's fault.

III. WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHAT ONE DOES WITH JESUS?

1. Jesus has to be dealt with. As we live and breath, we must do something with Jesus.
2. What does it matter? If it matters, HOW does it matter? For what reason does it matter?
3. It matters vitally to every person, personally.
 - In one's own life.
 - Jesus comes offering to forgive one's sins.
 - Jesus comes offering a new heart.
 - Jesus comes offering to change one into the person God wants.
 - Jesus comes offering forgiveness, power and salvation, if only one will trust Him.

- What one does with Jesus determines whether one will be saved or not.
 - If one does the right thing with Jesus, he/she will be saved.
 - If one does the wrong thing, he/she will be lost forever.
 - Surely it is a matter of supreme importance of what one does with Jesus.
4. What one does with Jesus vitally matters in his/her relations to everyone else.
 - It effects the life one is to live.
 - The influence one is to have on others.
 - Surely everyone wants to have a good influence on others.
 - Surely everyone wants to be useful.
 - With Jesus as Savior, all the wonderful good things can happen in one's life.
 5. What one does with Jesus determines where one will spend eternity.
 - Isn't that a tremendous decision? Where will you spend eternity?
 - Where we spend eternity depends on what we do with Jesus right now.
 - Isn't that an important matter? Where you spend eternity?

IV. WHEN SHOULD ONE DECIDE THIS QUESTION ABOUT JESUS?

1. It can't be decided yesterday for yesterday is already gone.
2. What about deciding tomorrow? Well, what do you know about tomorrow? Will you even be around tomorrow? Really there is no promise that there will even be a tomorrow.
3. So that leaves TODAY.
 - Today is God's time.
 - God is doing the saving and He says to come NOW, TODAY. *"...Now is the accepted time for salvation..."*
 - The time for YOU to come to Jesus is right now, every one.
4. Come right now because it is a safe time, perhaps the only time left for you, the last time you will ever have.

CONCLUSION:

1. What have you done with Jesus?
 - Have you already trusted Jesus?
 - Are you ready to trust Him right now?
 - Then act this very moment.
2. Don't worry about what others might say or think. They have the same question to answer that you do. They have to deal with what to do with Jesus also.
3. Trust Jesus, He'll do the rest.