

Scripture Lesson: - Matthew 27:1-24.

Text: - Matthew 27: - 22.

Introduction: - These are the words of Pilate at the time when his, Jesus enemies were clamoring for his destruction. He asks this particular question under peculiar circumstances not necessarily relative to his individual life, but in a political way.

What must I do with Jesus? Pilate could find no just reason for allowing a condemned man to be crucified. He had examined Jesus and questioned him, and made every effort to find a just reason why he should die. Therefore when he could not find a reason for his death and the Jews kept clamoring for his crucifixion he asked "Whither of the twain will ye that I release? They said Barabbas. Then came the words of the text.

I.

Pilate asked this question in regard to the immediate disposition of Christ. As one in authority he must act, and act he did. He released the criminal Barabbas, and allowed Christ to be crucified. But an interesting thing occurred; he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person, see ye to it". By this time Christ had become a personal as well as a political problem to Pilate. Therefore he tried to shift the responsibility from himself by washing his hands and saying, "I am innocent". He well knew that his washing of the hands did not make him innocent, of the blood of that just person. He knew that he should stand up for the just, but in this case he knew how much it would please the Jews by letting Christ be crucified, and hence the words "Take him and crucify him".

II.

Christ has always been and always will be a personal problem for all people. We cannot

evade Christ however we may try. Indifference with reference to him may seem the easiest route, but sooner or later indifference will meet with conditions which call for a disposition of Christ. It may be at the bedside of a loved one; the hour of separation has come. He has asked for a last prayer to the Christ who is the forgiver of all his sin. At the funeral of this loved one the minister is called to say the last words and offer hope, the hope of reunion on the other side through the death of Christ. "I have come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly". Who said that? Christ. And there at the moment of supreme crisis the indifferent man or woman is brought face to face with Christ, and must ask and answer that same question that Pilate asked and answered. What must I do with Jesus, which is called Christ.

Another way may be tried to evade Christ; just to remain ignorant of him. How is any one to remain ignorant of Christ? The Bible, the hymnal, the church, the minister, the lives of all godly people, are all signboards pointing to Christ the Savior of the world and of every individual, and we will not have read our Bibles very long until we will hear him say unto us, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me". And we will learn that he is the Son of God and wants to be our Savior. That is the reason why every man must do something about Christ.

### III.

There must be an origin for this universe, and for mankind, existing on it; and there is an origin, and our Bible gives the most sensible reason that has yet been given. In the beginning God. God made the earth and he made man. He said, Let us make man in our own image, and in our own likeness.

We know that the earth is a reality, and that man is a reality; we conclude that God is the creator of the earth and the preserver of it. Then we find in our Bibles that Christ is the son of God, and that he was a Lamb slain before

the foundation of the world, we begin to realize what God was talking about when he said let us ~~and~~ make man in our own image. Man was made in the image of God and of his Son. That is with purity, and intellect, with the sensibilities and with will power. Some one has well said, "God was taking an awful chance". He had made man with such characteristics that he can determine for himself, he can think for himself, man can will to give himself up to God or he can leave God alone.

There was however one condition that could be changed about man, and that was his purity; he could lose that by disobedience. His other powers, intellect, sensibilities and will made it possible to disobey. God well knew that man would some time disobey and need bringing back to a state of obedience. Therefore God had in his wise plan his Son who would use the only means that could be used on man to bring him back to obedience and to purity. That means was friendship, brotherhood, compassion, sacrifice, love; dying for man. If a man will be my friend, and brother and have compassion on me, and love me enough to die for me, he has appealed to me through my God given nature. He has appealed to my intellect, to my emotions, to my will, and he has brought me to God through my own powers and not by compulsion.

That is why we must come face to face with Christ and do something about him, and when we refuse to do something about him we have automatically done something about ourselves. We have have rejected his spirit; we have rejected the comforting influence of his love. We have left life without hope, without faith and without a goal.

Conclusion. What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ? What will your answer be, what will my answer be? Just what is the correct answer. What does Christ say is the answer? "Come unto me ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". Is not man, every man laboring, is man not heavy laden, who is without Christ and yet facing the open grave without God and without hope. Is there not a void in your life and mine if we have not contacted Christ. Jesus has what it takes to satisfy man; namely, love,

friendship, brotherhood, and companionship. He can fill the void in love and supply all our ~~xxxx~~ needs.

Perhaps you may be looking for satisfaction to be found in material things. To be found in pleasures of life, in pursuits, in achievements. All of these are of value, but they are only passing values. There may be found pleasure that is of a worldly way. They are not eternal. Many a poor soul has been eternally lost because its possessor got the idea that the world could offer more than God has to offer through Jesus Christ.

During a revival meeting the evangelist talked with a young lady in regard to her salvation. She said, "Yes, I know it is the best way to live. I ought to be a Christian. But I am not ready yet, for I want to enjoy the world for a while." But she continued to come to the meeting and one night was gloriously saved. She began to lead others to Christ. The evangelist one evening approached her and said, "Young lady, are you enjoying yourself". She replied, "I was never so happy in all of my life." He said, "Do you think you are enjoying yourself as much as the girls out in the world? Her answer was, "They know nothing of what real joy is." That is what Christ can do for you. Have you settled the question this morning: "What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ".