

1885 "What Think Ye of Christ?" 2/6/59

Scripture Lesson: - Matthew 22: 35 - end.

Text: - Matthew 22: 42. "What think ye of Christ?"

Introduction: - No one who is reading these days has not thought, more or less, about Christ. All have heard about him, and heard men preach about him. For nearly two thousand years men have been talking about him and thinking about him. Some have made up their minds about him, who he is, and doubtless, some have not. But the question still comes up today. Men are still asking the question, "What think ye of Christ?"

It is of very little importance what the world thinks of anyone. It matters little what we think of them. Their lives can only interest a few; but every living soul is interested in Jesus Christ. The question is "What think ye of Christ? You are not asked what you think of the Episcopal church, the Methodist church, the E.U.B. church, the Baptists, or the Roman Catholic church; you are not asked whether you like the minister, whether you like this doctrine or not, but you are asked "What think ye of Christ?"

Was he really the Son of God? Did he leave heaven and come down to this world for a purpose? Why did he leave all the grandeur and glory of heaven and come down here to this sinful and ungodly earth?

I.
The Pharisees. Let us ask them what they think of Christ. "This man receiveth sinners. What an argument. Why, this is the very thing that makes us love him. It is the glory of the gospel. He receives sinners. If he has not received sinners, what would have become of us?"

Have you anything more of which to accuse him?

Well, "when he was hanging on the cross, he was asked to save himself. But we say, "He saved others and could not save himself". Yes, he laid down his life for yours and mine. He died for others. His life was a ransom for many. Yes, it is true, that you think of him, "he saved others, himself he could not save".

II.

Let us hear from Pilate. Jesus was brought before him, He examined him. Talked with him face to face. "What do you think of Christ?"

"I find no fault in Him", says Pilate. He said he was the king of the Jews", but I find no fault in him.

Such is the testimony of the man who examined Christ. As he stands there alone, the center of a Jewish mob, a man elbows his way, to reach Pilate. He gives him a message. He tears it open and reads. "Have thou nothing to do with this just man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him". It is a message from Pilate's wife - her testimony to Christ. Do you want to know what a heathen thought. Well, here it is, "no fault in him." And from his wife, "this just man."

III.

It will be worth while to examine Judas, as to what he thinks of Christ. Yes, we know that he sold him for thirty pieces of silver, and betrayed him with a kiss.

"I have betrayed innocent blood". That is what Judas thought of the Christ. Yes, every man who had anything to do with the death of Christ says that he was an innocent man.

The Centurion, who was present at the crucifixion, should make a good witness. He had charge of the Roman soldiers. He had told the soldiers to make Jesus carry his cross. He had given orders for the nails to be driven through his hands and feet, and for the spear to be thrust into his side. He ought

to be a very good witness. Tell me what you think of Christ. You had charge of his executioners, you saw him die, you heard him speak upon the cross. Tell us what you think of Christ. He smites his breast and cries, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

We might next go to the thief on the cross, and ask him what he thinks of Christ. We know that at first he railed upon him, and reviled him. Then he thought better of it. As he drew near the end of like, he turned to the Savior and said unto him, "Remember me when thou when thou comest into thy kingdom." He had the joy of hearing the Christ say, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." In that moment he was saved. Why? Because he truly believed on the Son of God.

IV.

Now let us bring hear the wilderness preacher, par excellence. No, except the Christ, preached like this man. All Jerusalem, all Judea went into the wilderness to hear him. What does he say of Christ. "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." "I bare record that he is the Son of God." No wonder he drew all Jerusalem, and all Judea to hear him. He preached Christ. I believe that when men preach Christ, many men will follow him.

Let us bring Peter for a witness. Peter, who was with him on the Mount of Transfiguration, and who was with him the night he was betrayed. When he was sent to Caiphas by the high priest, and you Peter, were warming yourself, and the company said to you, "Are you not one of his disciples", you denied it, yes you denied it three times. You cursed and swore that you did not know him. Was that true? Don't you know him? Know him? Of course I knew him. That was a lie, that I told them. I did know him. Afterwards, I can yet hear him charging home their guilt upon these sinners of Jerusalem. On the day of Pentecost I called him both Lord and Christ. Peter preached Christ

wherever he went. And when he died on a cross, it is said, he demanded that he be crucified with his head downward, he did not think himself worthy to be crucified like his Lord was.

We might go on and bring others to testify of him, such as John, Matthew, Thomas, but we will leave them alone, and call upon Saul of Tarsus.

Saul was one of the worst enemies that Jesus had. He went everywhere persecuting the church. He, it is said, breathed out threatening and slaughter against the church. He was going to Damascus to bring Christians bound to Jerusalem. As he travelled, one day at noon, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?". He replied, "Who art thou, Lord?" He was answered, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest". And, he, Saul, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" "Arise, and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do".

What a change meeting the Christ made in Saul. He became the greatest preacher of the age. He traveled all over Asia and parts of Europe to tell of the Christ who saved him. After a few years we hear him say, "I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dross that I may win Christ".

And 1st of all, we shall summon the angels of glory. They saw him in the bosom of the Father, before the world was. They saw him leave the throne and come down to a manger. Let us ask them what they think of Christ. "Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". He has left the throne, to save the world. It is no wonder that the angels thought well of him.

And last of all, we shall hear what the Father thinks of Jesus, the Christ. To Peter and James and John, on the mount of transfiguration he says, "This is my beloved Son; hear him". And that voice went echoing and reechoing through Palestine, through all the earth from sea to sea, Hear him.

Conclusion:- My friend, will you hear him now? just now. It is the only time you have. He is saying unto you, "Come unto me, all ye that ~~are~~ ~~labor~~ and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

Will you not think well of such a Savior? Will you not believe in him? Will you not trust him with all your heart and mind? Will you not live for him? If he laid down his life for us, is it not the least we can do to lay down ours for him? If he bore the cross and died on it for me, ought I not be willing to take up the cross for him? We have reason to think well of him. Do you think it is right to lift up our voice against such a Savior? Of course it is not. Will you come to him this morning? Will you take this Christ to be your Savior, your redeemer? Come now. Come while we sing.

*Your eternal destiny depends
on what you think of Christ*