

What to do with Jesus

1. The last few weeks we have been talking about some of the important things to consider about the salvation...that most teachers don't talk about
 - a. I have been stuck...focusing on how the hearts of the 3000 were pierced
 - b. How this piercing caused them realize they missed what God wanted to do in their lives
 - c. The reason I want to explore this...is because the same thing is happening in our lives
 - d. Things that I thought were so important...is exactly what Jesus wanted me to let go of...so I could see the truth of what Jesus is teaching us
 - e. We read in the Bible after a spiritual truth these words...Let them who have ears...hear...let them who have eyes...see the truth
 - f. 50 days prior to this event...they were shouting crucify Jesus
 - g. Then suddenly 50 days later...they want to worship this same Jesus
 - h. I want to explore the differences...between these 2 different events...
Passover and Pentecost
 - i. The first thing Peter tells the 3000...if you want to be a true follower of Jesus...then you must repent...which means to change
 - j. As a Bible student...our question should be...repent from what sin...and how do we change...from what...to what

- k. Our Bible tells us...the only sin that is unforgivable...is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit...
- l. Which means rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit...as He is revealing that Jesus is the Lord and wants to be the Lord of your life
- m. Those who try to save their life loose it
- n. I want to explore this this thought...how did they reject Jesus then...and come to faith now
- o. We who have faith...know it is a work of the Holy Spirit...
- p. My experience...is the Holy Spirit never stops working in my life...meaning I haven't arrived yet...I still need work
- q. What I want to focus on...is what changed between the Passover event...and this event at Pentecost
- r. Because there is a question that is asked...and we have to answer this same question daily...What to do with Jesus in this or that area of our life
- s. We have covered the greatest change quit well...their hearts were pierced...and this piercing is what changed their hearts
- t. So if your heart is pierced...it is a good thing...it is a work of the Holy Spirit
- u. This change in their heart was evidenced...by the desire to change their life or their actions...to now desiring Jesus...instead of rejecting Jesus...hello
- v. To now...making Jesus the king of their heart...rather than crucifying Him
- w. Why I want to cover this some more...is because we face the same temptation daily...to put the world...before Christ

- x. The world...only brings temporary joy...and little peace...only Christ can bring true joy and peace
 - y. I am not going to try to figure out...what was truly going on in the hearts of the 3000
 - z. I don't know what motivates my own heart sometimes...only I have to make a point...to remind myself...that Jesus is my King
 - aa. That Jesus is the only one who has the truth...where else can I go...that I can trust Him
 - bb. I want to look at Jesus's interaction with pilot...and how Pilot interacted with the crowd
 - cc. I want to show us...how Pilot saw Jesus...and how the religious leaders saw Jesus...and how the crowd viewed Jesus
 - dd. The thing I want us to see...is how they deal with the question...what to do with Jesus...so lets look at how they wrestle with that question
 - ee. First off Jesus is arrested at night...brought before the religious leaders for an illegal trial...who found Jesus guilty
 - ff. But they had a problem...they did not have the authority to kill Jesus
 - gg. One of the prophecies about the time of the coming Messiah...is Israel would not be able to exact capital punishment...according to their law
 - hh. So the religious leaders...have to get the Roman government involved to use capital punishment on Jesus...let's pick it up at Jesus's trial
2. John 18:28 Jesus' trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn't

go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn't be allowed to celebrate the Passover.

- a. The first thing we see is the false trial of Jesus with the high priest is at night...which is illegal
- b. We notice these...supposed religious law keeping Jews...won't enter the headquarters of the roman government
- c. The reason is it would make them unclean...and not able to participate in the Passover feast according to the law
- d. What we are seeing is hypocrisy...they break the law at Jesus's illegal trial ...they also break the law...by condemning Jesus to death without fault
- e. What we are seeing...is what the religious community answers our question...what to do with Jesus...their answer is to kill Him
- f. So many people today...when they are posed with the question...what do we do with Jesus...they kill Him also
- g. Something I want to point out...which is a carry-over from last week...we talked about the actions of the apostate church people in the end times
- h. We talked about the hearts and hypocrisy of these guys...who have an appearance of godliness but lack the power that could save them
- i. These religious guys...sentence an innocent man to death...but will not enter a gentiles house because it would make them unclean
- j. They are missing Jesus...in their desire to be religious
- k. Religion never saved anyone...only Jesus saves

3. John 18:29 So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?"
 - a. This is amazing in it's self...that Pilot himself would go out to speak with them
 - b. He could have had the guard grab the high priest...by the scruff of the neck...and bring the high priest to him
 - c. The question Pilate asks...is what is your charge against this man...Pilate see Jesus as only a man
 - d. I love how they answer with a non-answer...answer...
4. John 18:30 "We wouldn't have handed him over to you if he weren't a criminal!" they retorted.
 - a. They don't have a crime that Jesus committed...and they know it
 - b. They are deceptively acting honorable...and acting as if they are doing Pilot a favor...Hypocrisy
5. John 18:31 "Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them. "Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied. 32 (This fulfilled Jesus' prediction about the way he would die.)
 - a. Here we see that Pilot doesn't want to deal with the problem...which is the very question everyone must answer...what to do with Jesus
 - b. The world also takes this stand...they don't want to deal with Jesus either
 - c. Everyone eventually must deal with Jesus...Jesus is God...that never goes away...and everyone must answer the question
 - d. Pilot is being asked to judge the One...who will someday judge him

- e. Each of us...are put in this same position...who do we say Jesus is
 - f. Keep your finger in John...let's cover the prophecy
6. Matt 20:17-19, 17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to Him. 18 "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence Him to die. 19 Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day He will be raised from the dead."
7. John 18:33-34, 33 Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. 34 Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"
- a. Again the problem of deciding who Jesus is...never goes away
 - b. Each of us have to answer this same question...is Jesus the King
 - c. Is Jesus...only a get out of jail card...fire insurance...cheap salvation...or is He the Lord...our Master...our King
 - d. Are we the 12 who stayed with Jesus...or the 5000 that walked away when Jesus no longer meet their needs in John 666
 - e. There is a difference...each of us have to answer these same questions...if we are willing to listen to the Holy Spirit
 - f. Here is how Pilot answers
8. John 18:35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"

- a. Pilot's heart is hard...you can tell by his response...am I a Jew
 - b. This response comes from a hard heart...and immediately tries to justify himself...by claiming that Jesus can't even win over the leading priest
 - c. Or why should I believe Jesus is Lord...when Jesus is unable to convince His own people
 - d. So many times...people will look at the actions of others...to justify their own lack of faith
 - e. Blaming others who have influenced our decision about Christ...is the same as Adam did by blaming Eve for his sin
 - f. The enemy wants to influence...our decisions about Jesus...and a hard heart...wants to justify...our faithless decision we make
 - g. Still Jesus answers Pilots question...Are you a king...and Jesus gives His testimony
9. John 18:36-37, 36 Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world." 37 Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."
- a. Each of us have to decide whether Jesus's testimony is the truth or not
 - b. We naturally want to take parts of Jesus as truth...but not let Jesus rule
 - c. Here is what Jesus is saying to Pilot...you say I am a King...but I can see I am not the King of your heart

- d. Can we say our heart seeks the truth...if you love the truth...then you will recognize that Jesus is the Lord...and make Him King of our hearts
- e. Jesus is the King not of this world...but He can be the King of our hearts
- f. Will we make Jesus the King of our hearts...will we believe the testimony of Jesus...it is called faith
- g. Notice how Pilate responds to Jesus's call to faith

10. John 18:38-40, 38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime. 39 But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this 'King of the Jews'?" 40 But they shouted back, "No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!" (Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

- a. Pilate is making decisions each of us have to face...we don't want to kill Jesus...nor do we want to disappoint the world
- b. Again Pilate tries to pass off the judgement...because He doesn't want to answer the question of who Jesus is
- c. My testimony is...I was at the same place once upon a time...I asked the same question...what is truth
- d. I started to read the Bible...in order to disprove God and Jesus...and I couldn't...and this is when I came to make Jesus my Lord
- e. Pilate tries to avoid answering the question...by trying to release Jesus...hoping they will claim their Messiah
- f. The Jews respond by saying...He is not our King...

- g. We would rather have the worst man of the world...who is guilty of the very crimes we are judging Jesus with
 - h. We choose the son of the father of lies...or the man of the world...over the man Christ...the man who testifies the truth
 - i. They denied the son of God...and chose the son of the father of lies...that what Barabbas name means...son of the father
 - j. Pilot is stuck...he doesn't want to kill Jesus...just in case what He says is true...this is small faith
 - k. In John 6...after feeding the 5000...Jesus says you must eat my flesh and drink my blood...or accept what Jesus did on the cross
 - l. But instead the 5000 disciples walked away...the 12 also didn't understand...but they knew that only Jesus had the truth
 - m. Pilot is in a pickle...he doesn't want to believe Jesus either...but at the same time...something is telling him what Jesus said...could be true
 - n. Will Pilot chose his worldly status as governor...or make the decision for Christ
 - o. Pilot continues 3 times to escape...the decision of who Christ is
11. John 19:1-3, 1 Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. 2 The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. 3 "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.
- a. While they were mocking Jesus...sinning against Jesus...Jesus proudly wore the curse of man as a crown

- b. I am talking about the crown of thorns...the curse for sin in the garden of Eden...and the color of purple...the color of royalty
- c. People were mocking the truth of Jesus...as He is turning the other cheek and dying for the sins of the world...and they didn't care

12. John 19:4-5 Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty." 5 Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"

- a. Two very important things are proclaimed here...one...that Jesus is not guilty and deserving of this punishment...meaning He didn't sin
- b. Second...that He is a man...and because He is a man...He is now able to sacrifice Himself...or pay for man's sin as a kinsman redeemer

13. John 19:6-8 When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" "Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty." 7 The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God." 8 When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever.

- a. Even Pilate saw their hypocrisy...their hard hearts...their thirst for blood
- b. By the testimony of the Jewish accusers...saying Jesus claimed to be the Son of God...did something in the heart of Pilate

14. John 19:9 He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. 10 "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify

you?" 11 Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

- a. These questions Pilate is asking...are very good questions...ones I have asked also...Jesus who are you...they say you claim to be the Son of God
- b. What Pilate is saying...Jesus help me with this decision
- c. Jesus answers...you have no power to make this decision...it has already been made from the Father...I must die for sin
- d. How many of us have asked Jesus to talk to us...when we are struggling with our faith about Him
- e. Each of us must accept the fact that our actions...our sin...caused Jesus to die...and we must drink His blood and eat His flesh
- f. The old covenant of the law must die...so that the spirit must live 2 cor 3
- g. Again Pilate tries to release Jesus from what Jesus must do...pay for sin

15. John 19:12 Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, "If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.' Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar."

- a. This is a threat to ruin Pilate's worldly status...if he doesn't go with the flow of their request

16. John 19:13 When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). 14 It was now about noon on the day of

preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, "Look, here is your king!"

- a. The word Gabbatha means the elevated seat of judgement
- b. Each of us...must also sit in this place of Judgement of who Christ is
- c. Clearly Pilate didn't want to kill Jesus...something was going on inside Pilate...faith or not...the Bible don't say
- d. Pilot calls Jesus as the king of the Jews...in verse 14...Pilot calls Jesus their king...even Pilot is surprised by their answer
- e. I believe Pilate knew Jesus was who He claimed to be...and knew that Jesus was to die that day...and washed his hands of the situation

17. John 19:15 "Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him! Crucify him!" "What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests shouted back. 16 Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

- a. These guy's hearts were so hard...that they would come under the evil world empire of Rome...rather than accept Jesus
- b. The concurring roman empire...was oppressive...cruel...greedy...unfair
- c. They chose the world over the truth of God
- d. 50 days later...Peter's words of teaching scripture of the prediction of Jesus's life...death...and resurrection pierced their hearts
- e. They were able to finally recognize the truth...and they realized they needed to change...their hearts realized who Jesus is
- f. They needed to repent from being hard hearted...to being open to the truth
- g. And they asked what should we do...or what actions needed to change

18.

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27. Acts 2:41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

a. We may be thinking...wow...3000 people saved...but how many didn't believe what Peter said

b. Here only 3000 out over 3 million devout Jews who received the truth from Peter

c. There are seven things I want to note about the result of the changed heart

28. Slide...First...In verse 41 it resulted in salvation

a. 3000 believed Peter...and they acted on their faith...in Baptism...being added to the church

29. Slide...second...They committed themselves to the Lord in 4 areas starting in verse 42

30. Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

31. Slide...They were committed to the doctrine teaching of the apostles
32. Slide...They were committed to fellowship
33. Slide...They were committed to sharing meals...including the Lord's supper
34. Slide...They were committed to prayer
 - a. These are the things the first church were doing...and the new people who are added...should be also doing these things
35. Acts 2:43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
 - a. The third issue of the result of the gospel is the reverent fear according to verse 43.
36. Acts 2:44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.
 - a. The fourth issue as a result of the gospel is the generosity in verses 44-45.
 - b. This sharing has been tried before since this time...and has never worked
 - c. Communal living didn't work for the disciples and still doesn't work today
 - d. But the point was...they valued others...they didn't value the worldly things over others
37. Acts 2:46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—
 - a. The fifth issue...is a result of the gospel is simplicity as in verse 46.

38. Acts 2:47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

- a. The sixth issue is they were praising God together and having favor with all people.
- b. The seventh they resulted in growth.
- c. So it is the Lord...who grows the church...not programs