

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** What Shall I Do with Christ?

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Matthew 27:22

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1848

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Two thousand years ago, Pilate (the Roman governor who delivered Jesus up to be crucified) asked a question that is as fresh and pertinent today as it was then.
  - i) "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?"
    - (1) Matthew 27:22
    - (2) This question is a personal question.
      - (a) You, like Pilate, must answer it.
    - (3) This question is a pertinent question.
      - (a) We are not talking about some other personality.
      - (b) We are not talking about some denomination.
      - (c) We are not talking about some idea.
      - (d) We are talking about the One who claims to be the Son of God.
    - (4) This question is a pressing question.
      - (a) It is before you right now.
      - (b) If you have not already settled this question, then you will make a decision concerning this question.
      - (c) Everyone will answer this question one way or another, whether vocally or by their actions.
- b) Pilate had Jesus Christ on his hands; therefore, Jesus Christ was in Pilate's hands that day.
  - i) Today, Jesus Christ is in your hands.
- c) The time came when Pilate was in Jesus' hands.
  - i) The time will come when you will be in Jesus' hands.
- d) Jesus stood before Pilate, but at the judgment, Pilate will stand before Jesus.
- e) Jesus stands before you today through the Spirit and through the Word.
  - i) One day, you will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ii) And so, this question is a very pertinent, very personal, and very pressing question:
    - (1) "What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
- f) Pilate had to do something with Jesus.
  - i) He was faced with the inevitable, unavoidable Jesus Christ, and so are you.
- g) Pilate did not make the decision to have Jesus crucified without warning.
- h) There were voices that confronted Pilate:
  - i) There was the voice of reason.
    - (1) Matthew 27:18
    - (2) It told Pilate that this whole thing was a charade.
    - (3) If you will use the voice of reason that Pilate failed to use, then you will give your heart to Jesus Christ.
  - ii) There was the voice of conscience.
    - (1) Pilate looked at Jesus, listened to all the witnesses, he examined the evidence, and he found no fault in Jesus.
    - (2) He knew that Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be.

- iii) The voice of a loved one.
  - (1) Pilate's wife had a dream.
    - (a) Matthew 27:19
  - (2) God, through the voice of a loved one, had spoken to Pilate.
- iv) The greatest voice that spoke to Pilate was the voice of God.
  - (1) He was face-to-face with Jesus Christ.
  - (2) John 18:37
  - (3) Pilate had his opportunity to give his heart to Jesus Christ.
- i) There were values that controlled Pilate:
  - i) Public opinion and popularity
    - (1) The Bible tells us that Pilate allowed Jesus Christ to be crucified in order to give contentment to the crowd.
      - (a) Matthew 27:22-24
    - (2) Public opinion squeezed Pilate into a mold.
    - (3) Some people are afraid that if they give their heart to Jesus Christ, then they will be laughed at or looked down upon.
      - (a) They would be out of step with the crowd that they run in.
  - ii) Position and possession
    - (1) Pilate had a cushy job.
      - (a) He had all of the lavish amenities that a Roman governor would have.
    - (2) The Jewish council told Pilate that Jesus claimed to be king.
      - (a) If Pilate did not allow Jesus Christ to be crucified, then they would send word to Caesar.
        - (i) Pilate would lose his position and his possession.
    - (3) Pilate made a decision to crucify Jesus Christ.
      - (a) What buttered his bread determined his conduct.
        - (i) There are people like this today.
          - 1. They would see that Jesus Christ is crucified before they would give up position and possession.
  - iii) Pride
    - (1) Pilate was an egotist.
      - (a) He was stuffed full of himself.
    - (2) John 19:10
    - (3) Many men and women have been escorted to Hell bound in the chains of pride that have been forged on the anvil of a hard heart.
- j) The verdict that condemned him:
  - i) In a mock ceremony, Pilate took a basin of water and washed his hands.
    - (1) He said that he was innocent of the blood of this just man.
      - (a) Matthew 27:24
  - ii) It is true that Pilate did not spit in the face of Jesus.
  - iii) It is true that Pilate's hands were not the hands that jerked the beard from Jesus' face.

- iv) It is true that Pilate did not hold the club that battered, beat, and bruised the face of Jesus.
  - v) It is true that Pilate did not hold the hammer that drove the nails into the palms of Jesus Christ.
  - vi) It is true that Pilate did not hold the spear that was rammed into His side.
  - vii) But eternity will show that Pilate's decision not to decide was the worst decision of all.
    - (1) Jesus Christ said that He who is not with Me is against Me.
      - (a) Matthew 12:30
    - (2) Pilate thought that by allowing the crowd to decide whether to release Jesus or Barabbas, he could be neutral of this whole thing.
    - (3) His decision not to decide was the worst decision that he could make.
      - (a) He decided against the Lord Jesus and allowed Jesus to be crucified.
  - k) That first trial was a mockery of justice.
  - l) In today's message, we will put Jesus Christ on trial again.
    - i) We will put Jesus Christ in the seat of the accused.
    - ii) We will hear evidence and the testimonies of people concerning Jesus Christ.
    - iii) There are two questions that we will ask:
      - (1) What think ye of Christ?
      - (2) What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?
    - iv) The witnesses will give answers out of the pages of holy Scripture.
      - (1) Every testimony will be backed up by the inerrant, infallible Word of God as we go back into time.
- 2) THE TESTIMONIES OF JESUS' FRIENDS
- a) John the Baptist
    - i) He was called "the forerunner of Jesus."
    - ii) He was a wilderness man.
    - iii) He was related by blood to the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - iv) He baptized the Lord Jesus.
      - (1) Matthew 3:13-17
    - v) What think ye of Christ?
      - (1) "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world."
        - (a) John 1:29
  - b) Simon Peter
    - i) What think ye of Christ?
      - (1) "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
        - (a) Matthew 16:16
  - c) The Apostle John
    - i) He was a deep thinker.
    - ii) He spent three years in the presence of Jesus.
    - iii) What think ye of Christ?

- (1) “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
  - (a) John 1:14
- d) The Apostle Paul
  - i) He was one of the greatest intellects the world has ever known.
    - (1) He would have the equivalency, if he lived today, of a triple Ph.D.
    - (2) He was conversant in many languages.
    - (3) He was a world traveler, a scholar, and a philosopher.
  - ii) What think ye of Christ?
    - (1) “He is the image of the invisible God.”
      - (a) Colossians 1:15
- e) Mary and Martha had Jesus in their house many times.
  - i) What think ye of Christ?
    - (1) “I believe You are the Son of God.”
      - (a) John 11:27
- f) A holy angel
  - i) “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”
    - (1) Luke 2:11

### 3) THE TESTIMONIES OF JESUS' ENEMIES

- a) The Pharisees
  - i) They hated Jesus.
  - ii) They wanted Him crucified because Jesus received sinners and ate with them.
    - (1) Matthew 9:10-13
    - (2) Luke 15:1-2
- b) Caiaphas the High Priest
  - i) He said that Jesus should be crucified because He said that He is the Son of God.
    - (1) Mark 14:61-62
- c) A thief is called to testify.
  - i) The thief was a street person, an insurrectionist, and possibly guilty of murder.
    - (1) Certainly, in that day, the thief was judged worthy of crucifixion.
  - ii) Luke 23:39-43
    - (1) The thief was with Jesus on the cross.
      - (a) He beheld how Jesus died.
    - (2) What did he think of Jesus?
      - (a) “This man has done nothing amiss.”
- d) Judas betrayed Jesus.
  - i) He sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
    - (1) Matthew 26:15
  - ii) What think ye of Christ?

- (1) "I have betrayed innocent blood."
    - (a) Matthew 27:4
  - e) A Roman soldier, a centurion, watched Jesus die.
    - i) He placed Jesus on the cross.
    - ii) He watched as they drove the spear into His side.
    - iii) What think ye of Christ?
      - (1) "Truly, this was the Son of God."
        - (a) Matthew 27:54
  - f) A demon
    - i) What think you of Christ?
      - (1) "We know Thee, who Thou art, the holy One of God."
        - (a) Matthew 8:29
- 4) THE TESTIMONIES OF MODERN WITNESSES
- a) Jesus Christ is not dead; He is alive.
  - b) One witness testifies that Jesus is alive today and is still changing lives.
    - i) The witness' father was an alcoholic and reprobate who mentally and physically abused his mother.
    - ii) His family had fame, fortune, and a house, but they did not have a home.
    - iii) His mother was a good lady who did all the right things, but through a Bible study she learned that doing all the right things would not get her to Heaven.
      - (1) Trusting Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
      - (2) His mother trusted Jesus and was saved.
        - (a) She began immediately to pray for her husband.
    - iv) Through the prayers of his mother, two men came by their house and shared the Lord with his father.
      - (1) His father started reading the Bible.
      - (2) As he read John 3:16, he realized that the word "whosoever" meant him.
        - (a) His father became a Christian.
    - v) He immediately saw that his father was a changed man.
      - (1) His father started coming home sober.
      - (2) He started telling his family how much he loved them.
      - (3) Because he wanted to be like his dad so much, he walked the aisle at church and was baptized.
        - (a) But his life didn't change.
          - (i) He did not have a personal relationship with Jesus.
    - vi) 2 Corinthians 5:17
    - vii) The witness trusted Jesus as his personal Savior, and the Lord changed his life.
      - (1) He now wants to become more like His heavenly Father, not his earthly father.

- (2) He has had some problems since then, but he knows that he has the Problem Solver living on the inside of him.
- viii) Because of the change in his father's life and in his life, he knows that Jesus is alive.
- c) Two witnesses testify to the faithfulness of Jesus Christ and His comfort.
  - i) This couple lost their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter in a tragic accident.
  - ii) After losing their child, there was no one who could give comfort except the Son of God.
    - (1) Even before they could cry out to God, God was there.
    - (a) God was faithful.
  - iii) As this father held his dying daughter in his arms, God held this father in His arms.
  - iv) In the days after the accident, the spiritual comfort that God gives, the comfort He gives through the body of Christ, and God's faithfulness through His Word, kept this family together and strong.
    - (1) God strengthened their marriage.
  - v) This mother thought that she would never smile again, but God gave her His peace, His love, His grace, and His joy.
    - (1) She was able to smile again.
  - vi) They know that Jesus Christ is alive and that He is the Son of God.
    - (1) And they know that they will see their daughter again.
- d) Another couple testifies that Jesus Christ is the risen Son of God.
  - i) This young husband and father had a beautiful family, a nice home, and a new car.
  - ii) He was living life in the fast lane.
    - (1) He had all but destroyed his marriage.
  - iii) He asked God to send someone to show him the way.
    - (1) He was eating at a restaurant with a friend, and he recognized another man there who was a pastor in his city.
    - (2) Though he did not personally know this pastor, he asked to speak with him.
    - (3) He and his wife met with this pastor at his home, and the pastor shared Jesus with them.
    - (4) This couple prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
  - iv) Jesus Christ dramatically changed their lives.
  - v) This couple later learned that the pastor was supposed to have been at a meeting the day the husband saw him in the restaurant.
    - (1) A friend was supposed to have picked up the pastor to take him to this meeting, but the friend forgot.
    - (2) The pastor asked the Lord what He would have him to do that day, and the Lord impressed upon him to take his wife to that particular restaurant.
      - (a) This was no coincidence.

- vi) They know that God is real, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that Jesus died for their sins.
  - vii) Jesus heals broken hearts and mends broken homes.
- 5) THE TESTIMONY OF ALMIGHTY GOD (JOHN 3:17)
- a) What think Ye of Christ?
    - i) “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
      - (1) John 3:17
  - b) 1 John 5:9-10
    - i) God has given us the written record (the Bible), and God has given us the witness of the Spirit.
  - c) Jesus was only guilty of loving us and taking our guilt upon Himself.
  - d) Jesus is shown to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.
    - i) Romans 1:4
    - ii) Jesus Christ came out of the tomb living, risen, and victorious.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) How do we know that the apostles were not liars?
    - i) A man may live for a lie; but few, if any, will die for a lie.
      - (1) The apostles sealed their testimony with their lives.
      - (2) Men lie to get out of trouble, not to get into trouble.
    - ii) No one could not keep them quiet because they knew that Jesus had been raised from the grave.
      - (1) To silence them, you might as well have told the sun not to shine.
  - b) John 3:17
  - c) The evidence that He was not just another religious teacher was that God raised Him from the dead.
    - i) The book of Acts says that He was shown alive by many infallible proofs.
      - (1) Acts 1:3
  - d) Jesus Christ is in your hands.
    - i) One day, you will be in His hands.
    - ii) What will you do with Jesus?
      - (1) You can crown Him or crucify Him.
      - (2) You can accept Him or reject Him.
      - (3) You can confess Him or deny Him.
      - (4) But you cannot ignore Him.
    - iii) You are face-to-face with the unavoidable, inevitable Jesus Christ.
    - iv) You may say that you will not decide, but to not decide is a decision.
      - (1) Matthew 12:30
    - v) You will either trample His blood under your feet, or you will be under the blood for the forgiveness of sin.
      - (1) Don't try to pull the trick that Pilate tried to pull.
        - (a) It didn't work, and it never will work.



- e) What think ye of Christ?
- f) What will you do with Jesus who is called the Christ?
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16