**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | What Shall I Do with Jesus? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 27:22 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2222 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea at the time when Jesus was judged and sentenced to death upon the cross.
		1. Jesus was before Pilate, and Pilate had to make a decision concerning the Lord Jesus.
		2. Pilate asked the greatest question that could ever be asked:
			1. “What shall I do with Jesus?
				1. Matthew 27:22
	2. At that particular time, Jesus was being judged by Pilate.
		1. There is coming a time when Pilate will stand before Jesus to be judged by Jesus.
	3. In a very real sense, Pilate represents every person upon the face of the Earth who has asked the same question, “What shall I do with Jesus?”
		1. As Jesus was before Pilate, Jesus is before us.
		2. But one day, as Pilate will stand before Jesus, we too will stand before Jesus.
	4. This is a very important question posed to us today.
		1. It is a present question.
			1. It’s not simply about what Pilate did, for each of us have to answer that question.
		2. It is a personal question.
			1. It’s not about what somebody else is going to do with Jesus, but we have to decide what we are going to do with the Lord Jesus Christ.
		3. It is a pertinent question.
			1. Our destiny hangs on our answer to this question.
		4. It is a pressing question.
			1. We will answer this question one way or the other.
				1. Even to decide not to decide is a decision.
			2. It is inescapable and unavoidable.
			3. Everyone will either accept Jesus or reject Him.
				1. No one can be neutral.
	5. Today’s message will look at the tragic decision that Pilate made.
		1. Prayerfully, we will not repeat the awful decision that Pilate made.
2. the voices that confronted pilate
	1. There was the voice of reason.
		1. Matthew 27:18
		2. Pilate was reading the hearts and minds of those who brought Jesus before him.
			1. The religious leaders of that day wanted Jesus crucified.
			2. Pilate knew men, and he knew that “for envy they had delivered Him.”
				1. Pilate knew that these were trumped up charges against Jesus.
		3. Pilate knew better than to allow Jesus to be crucified.
			1. The voice of reason had spoken to Pilate, and it speaks to us today.
				1. If we are reasonable and will examine the evidence and listen to the witnesses, then we will have to say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, worthy of all honor, glory, majesty and praise.
			2. For a person to crucify Jesus, he must also crucify reason.
		4. We have three options concerning Jesus Christ.
			1. We all know that Jesus is a fact of history.
			2. Who was Jesus?
				1. Was He a liar?

Was He someone who knew that He was not God but pretended to be God?

* + - * 1. Was He a lunatic?

Was He a mad man who thought He was God but wasn’t?

* + - * 1. Was He the Lord?

Was He who He said He was and claimed to be?

* 1. There was the voice of a loved one.
		1. Matthew 27:19
			1. God had spoken to Pilate’s wife, and she went to warn Pilate.
		2. Has a loved one spoken to you about Jesus Christ?
	2. There was the voice of his conscience.
		1. Matthew 27:23-24
			1. Pilate’s conscience thundered within him; he knew that Jesus was innocent.
			2. Pilate felt dirty and grimy, like he was being soiled by this whole thing.
		2. In his conscience, Pilate knew that what he was doing was wrong.
			1. Many today have never given their hearts to Jesus Christ.
				1. Reason says that they should, and loved ones say that they should.
				2. Their own conscience tells them that they need to do the right thing with the Lord Jesus.
	3. There was the voice of Jesus Christ Himself.
		1. John 18:37
			1. Jesus spoke to Pilate.
			2. Pilate heard the voice of Jesus.
		2. Anyone who has heard the Word of God has heard the voice of Jesus Christ.
			1. The Bible is as much the voice of Jesus Christ as if the Lord Jesus were standing here speaking to us in the flesh.
			2. Jesus is speaking out of the pages of His Word, and we have to face the voice of Jesus.
1. the values that conformed him
	1. There were certain pressures on Pilate that warred against his making the right decision.
	2. There was public opinion.
		1. Matthew 27:20
			1. There was a multitude of people clamoring for Barabbas, a criminal, to be released and for Jesus to be crucified.
		2. Pilate was a politician, reading the polls.
			1. He wanted to please the crowds.
				1. Mark 15:15
		3. Public opinion molded Pilate.
		4. Today, we are asked to make a public decision for Jesus Christ.
			1. Pressure comes upon us, and we wonder what other people will think.
		5. We are so concerned about public opinion that sometimes we crucify Jesus in order to please the crowd.
	3. There was pride.
		1. Pilate was a very proud man.
		2. John 19:9-10
			1. Pilate was so full of himself that he in essence asked if Jesus knew to whom He was talking.
		3. John 19:11
	4. There was the pressure of position and possessions.
		1. This was the main pressure Pilate felt.
		2. Pilate was governor, and he could lose his job if he did not make the politically correct decision or do the politically correct thing.
		3. John 19:12
			1. Pilate must have feared that someone might tell Caesar he was consorting with another King, and Caesar would get angry.
				1. Pilate might lose his job or something worse.
		4. Today, there are people who fear that if they give their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ that it may cost them.
			1. It may cost a promotion.
			2. It may cost material goods.
				1. People say, “A man’s got to live.”

No, a man has to die; and after that, he has to face God.

1. the verdict that condemned him (matthew 27:26)
	1. Why did Pilate decide to let Jesus be crucified?
		1. We know that Pilate had light.
		2. We know that there was pressure upon him.
		3. He also tried to straddle the fence to try to get through this.
	2. Pilate tried to ignore Jesus.
		1. Many today try to ignore Jesus.
		2. John 18:31
			1. Pilate was in essence telling the Jews not to bother him with this.
				1. He was telling them to make the decision.
		3. Some today think that simply ignoring Jesus is the solution.
			1. But Jesus is inevitable, unavoidable and inescapable.
			2. The Jesus you try to ignore is the Jesus you will one day face in the judgment.
	3. Pilate tried to shift the decision to someone else.
		1. Luke 23:6-7
			1. Herod was the king of Galilee.
			2. Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, so he decided to let Herod decide this.
		2. Sin is personal, and so is our decision about Jesus.
			1. No one can make this decision for us.
				1. Not our parents, not a rabbi, not a priest, not a politician.
				2. We cannot shift the decision to someone else.
			2. We have a decision to make.
		3. When Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, Herod just sent Him right back to Pilate.
			1. There is no way to shift the decision.
	4. Pilate sought simply to admire Jesus.
		1. He thought that if he could simply say some nice things about Jesus that it might be all right.
		2. Luke 23:14-15
			1. Pilate, who by his own words could have either released Jesus or crucified Jesus, said that he found no fault in Him; and yet, he allowed Jesus to be crucified.
		3. Even though Jesus was innocent, it would have been better for Pilate if he had thought that he had found some fault than to have found none and still allow Him to be crucified.
		4. It would have been better for Pilate to have never heard of Jesus than to say that he found no fault in Him and then simply ignore Him and allow Him to be crucified.
		5. Many today try this same route of saying nice things about Jesus.
			1. They say that He was a great man and a great teacher.
			2. It is not enough to tip the hat to Jesus; we must bow the knee to Jesus.
		6. It is not enough to say that we find no fault in Jesus, and yet, we don’t accept Him or acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior.
	5. Pilate attempted to remain neutral.
		1. He thought he could simply wash his hands of the whole matter.
		2. Matthew 27:22-24
			1. What Pilate tried to do was to not say yes or no, but to remain neutral and let someone else make the decision.
				1. This was the worst decision that Pilate ever made.

Matthew 12:30

* + 1. When the gavel fell in Pilate’s court, another gavel fell in Heaven.
			1. When Pilate allowed Jesus to be condemned, Pilate was condemned.
			2. We cannot be neutral concerning the Lord Jesus.
1. CONCLUSION
	1. The first trial of the Lord Jesus was a mockery of justice.
	2. If Jesus were on trial today and you were impaneled on the jury, what would you do with Jesus?
		1. Matthew 27:22
		2. Witnesses will be called into this trial, and these witnesses will be taken directly from the Bible.
			1. John the Baptist
				1. Matthew 11:11
				2. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.
				3. He knew Jesus from boyhood.
				4. John 1:29

John’s testimony of Jesus is that He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

* + - 1. Simon Peter
				1. Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter professes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

* + - 1. John the apostle
				1. John was a thoughtful person.
				2. John 1:14

John stated that Jesus is the Word made flesh and the only begotten of the Father.

* + - 1. Thomas
				1. Thomas was a follower of Jesus, but he had difficulty believing.
				2. John 20:28

Thomas called Jesus his Lord and his God.

* + - 1. Martha
				1. Jesus visited Martha’s home, and she observed Him in different situations.
				2. John 11:27

Martha believed that Jesus is the Son of God.

* + - 1. A holy angel
				1. Luke 2:11

An angel proclaimed that Jesus is Christ the Lord, our Savior.

* + - 1. A Pharisee
				1. The Pharisees were enemies to Jesus.
				2. The Pharisees wanted Jesus crucified.
				3. Luke 15:2

The Pharisees made the accusation against Jesus that He received sinners.

Aren’t we glad that Jesus does receive sinners?

* + - 1. Caiaphas the high priest
				1. Matthew 26:57-66
				2. Caiaphas wanted Jesus crucified because Jesus said that He is the Son of God.
			2. The centurion
				1. The centurion helped drive the nails into Jesus’ hands.
				2. Mark 15:39

The centurion said that Jesus is the Son of God.

* + - 1. Judas
				1. Judas sold the Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
				2. Matthew 27:4

Judas admitted that he had betrayed innocent blood.

* + - 1. Pilate
				1. Pilate had Jesus crucified, yet he said that he found no fault in Him.

John 19:4

* + - 1. A demon
				1. Luke 4:34

Even the demons confess that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

* + 1. These testimonies have been provided by Jesus’ friends and enemies.
		2. We have heard the testimony of angels and of demons.
		3. Even today, we hear the testimony of contemporary witnesses proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord and sharing how Jesus has transformed their lives.
			1. 2 Corinthians 5:17
			2. 2 Corinthians 4:17
		4. Almighty God has given testimony that Jesus Christ is His beloved Son.
			1. Matthew 3:17
	1. When they crucified Jesus and buried Him in that tomb, God the Father reversed the decision of the court and raised Jesus from the dead.
		1. Romans 1:4
		2. The early apostles believed that Jesus rose from the grave.
			1. Many of them died for their faith.
			2. Men may live for a lie, but few men will die for a lie.
	2. Now, you are the jury.
		1. What is your decision about Jesus Christ?
			1. Will you crown Him or crucify Him?
			2. Will you acknowledge Him or reject Him?
			3. Will you receive Him or deny Him?
		2. You will make a decision.
			1. You cannot be neutral.
			2. Even to decide not to decide is the worst decision you could possibly make.
		3. 1 John 5:9
	3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	4. 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.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16