

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS? Matthew 26:1-34**

When you read about the events that took place two days prior to the crucifixion of Jesus...there is one sobering reality that you simply can't get away from...and it is this....each person...each group of individuals had to make a serious decision as to what they would do with this person...Jesus Christ. Whether they be a common person, a disciple, a religious leader, a political leader or even an emperor.

The sobering reality in each and every one of our lives is this, when everything is over in life...and you have done all the living that there is assigned to your life...it will all come down to this sobering and serious question...WHAT DID YOU DO WITH JESUS, WHO IS CALLED THE CHRIST?

When you read the gospel account of Matthew 26, as Jesus talks to his disciples about his soon coming crucifixion and death...immediately we are moved into the presence of the chief priests and Jewish officials. There is a meeting going on...but the meeting of these religious people was unlike any other meeting they had...they were not meeting to see how to follow God more closely, how to help others as religious leaders, instead, they were meeting to discuss one single subject...what they were going to do with Jesus. The fact of Jesus presence was both sobering and convicting to all that came into contact with Him...because it was Jesus that revealed to mankind his "dirty, wicked, and sinful" heart...because all mankind is under sin. However, it is not the desire of Jesus that we stay in our sins...but a question must be asked to all mankind, "What will you do with Jesus?"

### **1. THERE ARE THOSE WHO DESIRE TO KILL HIM (v.4)**

While Scripture makes it clear that Jesus was slain from the foundation of the earth, the reality is, that still does not remove our accountability and what we desire to do with Jesus. Whenever you read the opening verses of Matthew 26, you immediately find those who were "chief priests", "Jewish officials", who by their words revered God, yet rejected His very own Son. From the very depths of their heart...theirs was a longing to "quietly kill" Jesus and remove Him from the scenes of their times and no doubt to go about life once again as usual. However, a sobering a serious question must be asked, "Are these the only ones in history that desired to kill Jesus?" The sobering truth is...these men revealed the depths of the human heart and the degree of wickedness that mankind is in. The fact of their "official meeting" was to "get rid of Jesus" and to "remove His presence from among them.

The sobering reality is that we are not a society unlike that first century. There are countless numbers that desire to "kill Jesus" in their mental processes. They desire to get rid of any thought or notion of Jesus in their mind. It is at the name of "Jesus" that conviction of our sinfulness is brought to light in the hearts of mankind.

When a person is not willing repent and come to God through Christ...through time there will be a desire to "kill in his mind" all mental thinking of Jesus... of conviction of sin. Just as a person may desire to "get rid of any notion of Jesus" in his mind, the same can happen to a society, a land and a nation.

Scripture reveals in the Old Testament what happened to the lands of Sodom and Gomorrah that desired to "get of the reality of God" in their minds. The fact of their destruction was not by chance or accident...but by the deliberate, willful hand of God. To the person that desires to "get rid" of any thoughts of Jesus, there remains "no hope" for him or her, only a fate worse than death. Caiaphas the High Priest conspired to "kill Jesus" but in the end...he found himself rejecting the only One that could rescue him and save him. If there is a desire in your heart to "get rid" of all notions of Jesus in your mind...you are in danger of losing not only your life but your soul for all eternity. The very words of Jesus are, "*What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mk. 8:36)*

Caiaphas was not made to reject Jesus...but chose to reject Jesus...and now he abides in torment...even though he was the “High Priest”, and followed many of the commands...HE REJECTED JESUS...THE GREATEST AND MOST DISASTROUS MISTAKE OF HIS LIFE.

## 2. **THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO HIM (v.7)**

While there are those that desire to “kill him”, there remains others that desire to honor Him by their humble lives, and service to Him. Jesus reveals one precious life that brought unto him a bottle of expensive perfume and did nothing less than “pour the perfume over his head”. What makes this such a significant act? To understand the significance, the value of the perfume must be understood.

The anointing of Jesus was a “sacrificial gift” and a “commitment that went beyond common sense”. For the value of this ointment was 300 denarii ...or approximately a year’s wage in that day and time. Here is a woman that is so seriously committed to Jesus...that she even puts to shame the disciples of Jesus. Her love for Jesus isn’t “in the norm” as we define normal...she is radically, totally and completely committed to Jesus. Rather than giving this year’s wage to the poor, hungry, homeless, she expressed her love to Jesus...in a measure that was “illogical in her day”. Could you say that about your life? Would you be willing to give a “year’s wages” freely unto Your Lord from your heart? Is your love toward Jesus so great...that you look for honorable ways to live your life in obedience to Him.

By Mary’s actions she revealed that there was no one more significant and more important to her life...that the Lord Jesus Christ. No one made her give...she gave freely, deliberately, intentionally purposely...from the overflow of her heart. What would you do in the same situation? What do you reveal about the depth of your commitment to Christ? Is there a commitment to Christ? Is your commitment only superficial? Does the Father see you committed to Christ? Is your commitment beyond “human logic” out of your love for Him?

## 3. **THERE ARE THOSE THAT DESIRE TO CASH IN ON HIM (v.15).**

While some desire to “kill Jesus” and others are “committed to Jesus” there are still others that desire to “cash in” on Jesus...like Judas Iscariot. For Judas, the very person of Jesus was a means to make money, and to betray Jesus into the hands of others. While God was in full control of all the events, the truth remains, Judas was a free moral agent, with a decision making will of his own. Though Judas was chosen to be an apostle...the sobering truth was...he chose to use Jesus for the very purpose of “money” and financial gain”. The simple yet sad conversation between Judas and the chief priest was this... “How much will you pay me to get Jesus into your hands?” Judas, with a warped sense of thinking thought of Jesus as a means to “make money”...when in the end...the very money in his hand tormented his soul.

To some...Jesus is a means to earn great wealth. Sadly, there are ministries the world over that use “Jesus” as a means to feed their financial greed. There are those that desire like Judas...to use Jesus for a means to an end...namely money. Judas wasn’t interested in repenting, following the Lord God, placing his faith in Jesus, being oriented to the will of God or the agenda of God. He was interested in what he could get out of Jesus. He was interested in what benefit could come his way by selling out Jesus to the priests.

When your life has been lived...would the Father declare about your life that you desired Jesus for your own “personal greed”, for gain rather than for obedience and a life of yielded service? Rather than following Him, serving Him, walking obediently to Him, and living a surrendered life to Him, you only wanted Jesus to “fill your coffers”. Sadly, many the world over desire Jesus for the same purposes of Judas...and the end result will be missing the abundant life that the Father yearns for them...because of a refusal to repent, confess sin and turn from their wicked ways. Judas didn’t die lost because he attempted to cash in on Jesus...but because he failed to repent and acknowledge his sin before Holy God.

## 4. **THERE ARE THOSE THAT CHOOSE TO DESERT HIM (v.31)**

As Jesus walked closer to the cross...he looked to all of his disciples and declared this sobering truth about all of them... "Tonight you will all desert me". For three years, these disciples had been with Jesus...yet when the most intense times came to the life of Jesus...namely the cross...the disciples walked away. Homes all across the land find many who "at one time" followed Jesus...yet in the midst of intense, painful, trying times...they walked away from Jesus. Yet, the good news is Jesus doesn't give up on us when we desert him. Jesus told the disciples...that he would visit them once again...after he had come back to life (was resurrected). While life is filled with many hardships...a person makes a decision to desert Jesus or follow Him. It is totally possible to "attend church" but to desert Jesus when it comes to loyal service, and a walk of obedience. Simply being in a church building does not mean a person is faithful to Jesus! Regardless of the intense times of life that we face, we have One that will never leave us or forsake us...that is His Word.

## **5. THERE ARE THOSE THAT CHOOSE TO DENY HIM...(v.34)**

Would you deny Jesus? Do you believe there would ever come a time in your life that you would "denounce" the very fact that you had a relationship with Jesus. Peter discovered this sobering reality...placed in the right environment, under the right amount of pressure, apart from dependence on the Spirit of God...he found himself doing what he never dreamed he would do...namely deny that he ever knew Jesus. Sadly, that is where many people are today in their lives. It is totally possible to be saved, and live a life "denying" the Lord by the way that you live, walk and behave.

Peter found himself saying "words" that he never believed possible...when confronted by these women in his day. Peter found that it was totally possible to be God's child...and live a life "in denial" of him. When we live as though we are "our own boss", we are denying Jesus His rightful Lordship over our lives...and in truth denying Jesus. For Jesus makes it clear, if we live a life denying Him before men...He will deny us before the Father. *Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.* How saddening for countless numbers that will find themselves before the Lord Jesus Christ...but be "denied" by Him...because of a life of disobedience...and rejection of Him, and His Word. When our lives have been lived, and we come to the conclusion of our lives...what will your life AND ETERNITY reveal about what you did with Jesus?