The Question Of The Ages

Intro: Mat. 27:22 “Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.” Many perplexing and important questions arise to confront us each day but none is more vital than this one.

1. Possibly you, as others, have put off giving a definite answer to this question.
2. If so, you are simply saying, “away with Him, away with Him.”
3. To answer this question, and we should answer it today for our eternal destinies are at stake, we must carefully consider and weigh each point.

I. THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE QUESTION.
   A. Mat. 26.
      1. The institution of the Lord’s Supper.
      2. Thence to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.
      3. The kiss of betrayal by Judas.
      4. Taken to Annas, then Caiphas and then to the Sanhedrin for trial.
   B. Mat. 27.
      1. The next morning the Jews delivered him to Pilate who found no fault in Him.
      2. Luke 23. He is then sent to Herod to whom He spoke not a word. Mocked He is then returned to Pilate.
      3. John 18-19 Pilate offered a choice between Christ and Barabas.
         a. Their answer was in favor of Barabas.
         b. Thus, the question of our text.
      4. Jesus was then further humiliated, crowned with thorns and scourged.
      5. Finally He was delivered to the Jews to be crucified.

II. WHAT THE QUESTION INVOLVES.
   A. What shall I do with God for the two are inseparable?
      1. John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
      2. John 10:30 “I and my Father are one.”
      3. John 14:9 “Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”
      4. Luke 10:16 “He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.”
   B. What shall I do with God’s Word?
      1. John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
      2. God’s Word and Christ are inseparable: decide what you will do with Christ and you thus decide what you will do with God’s Word.
   C. What shall I do with the church?
      1. Acts 9:4 “And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”
2. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

D. One’s disposal of God, the Word of God, and the church of God are all determined by the answer to this question.

III. WHO ALL WERE INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION, WHAT WERE THE ISSUES?
A. Roman Government.
   1. Justice on one hand.
   2. Whim’s of the Jews on the other.
B. Jewish Religionist.
   1. Tradition on one hand.
   2. The truth on the other.
C. Mob.
   1. Accepting benefactor.
   2. Accepting a murderer.
D. Pilate.
   1. Conviction of conscience at the innocence of Jesus.
   2. Favor with the masses, his popularity.
E. These were the interested parties in Pilate’s day, notice the parallel groups today.
   1. Governments.
   2. Religionist.
   3. The masses.
   4. The individual.
      a. Above all else the question is personal: salvation or damnation.
      b. Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

IV. WHAT WERE THE VERDICTS AND CONSEQUENCES?
A. The Verdicts.
   1. Mob: “crucify Him, crucify Him.”
   2. Pilate: “I find no fault in Him” — “I wash my hands of the blood of this innocent man.”
   3. Religionists: “his blood be upon us and our children.”
   4. Judas: “I have betrayed innocent blood.”
   5. Centurion: “Surely this was the Son of God.”
B. The consequences.
   1. As a consequence disaster came to all.
      a. Roman government: fell.
      b. Religionist: fell, passed into a memory when Titus destroyed the temple and Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
      c. Judas.
      (1) Hanged himself and went to torment.
(2) Acts 1:25 “That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”

d. Mob: slain in their same beloved city by the same Roman government whose favor they courted.

e. Pilate: for a national crime he was banished to Gaul where he met death by his own sword.

2. All paid the physical price for rejecting Christ, but more, they paid the price of eternity.

Conclusion: The question is still before us. Christ now is in our hands — for acceptation or rejection. But, one day we will be in His hand and shall be accepted or rejected on the basis of our judgment of Him. Will we be accepted or rejected by Him?