

What Will You Do With Jesus? #2

Joe Slater

Caiaphas, High Priest of Israel, what will you do with Jesus? Caiaphas replies, "I'll condemn Him!" The kangaroo court of Caiaphas met illegally in the middle of the night to consider the case of Jesus of Nazareth (Matt. 26:57-66). Caiaphas and his cronies actively sought false witnesses against Jesus, blatantly breaking the third and ninth commandments. But even the liars couldn't keep their lies straight! Only with persistent effort did they finally find two men to perjure themselves with the same lie, thus providing a quasi-legal excuse to condemn Jesus.

As presiding judge, Caiaphas' duty was to maintain neutrality and protect the rights of the accused. Instead, he assumed the role of prosecutor. Violating every principle of fairness, he placed Jesus under oath and compelled Him to testify against Himself. And to top it all off, without first asking for a vote of the judges, Caiaphas pronounced Jesus guilty of blasphemy, a capital crime, because Jesus confessed to being the Son of God! Naturally, the other judges agreed. The whole lot of them had made up their minds before sending the mob to arrest Jesus.

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the right hand of God in heaven; so, nobody today can do exactly what Caiaphas did in condemning Him. However, if we refuse to trust and obey Him, are we not, in essence, agreeing with Caiaphas that Jesus really isn't the Son of God? Wouldn't that make Him guilty of blasphemy since He said He is God's Son?

Let's set the record straight: If Jesus is the Son of God, they you owe Him your absolute, unqualified loyalty. If He isn't, then Caiaphas was right, and Jesus got what He deserved.

There is no middle ground. What will you do with Jesus?

Dust In The Wind

"The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit" (Ecclesiastes 1: 6).

The song "Dust in the Wind" has haunting lyrics that speak of the futility of life and how nothing that we say or do counts for anything. I would sing that song daily if I were not a Christian. I don't believe that we don't count, or what we say or do will not make a difference in this life.

We are truly a drop in the sea of humanity, but we are God's chosen, obedient followers and that makes the difference. We are here for a reason, a purpose and if we follow God, we will make a difference. We will count for something. God will enable us to do what he wants us to do, no matter what. He is our strength.

Jesus was one person, but He made a difference. Ruth was one person, but she made a difference. Moses was one person, but he made a difference. The person that shared the gospel with me made a profound difference in my life. Yes, what we do, the decisions we make, will affect not only ourselves but others in our circle of life.

Sometimes we doubt that what we do actually counts for anything. That doubt comes from the father of deceivers who would use your doubt to pervert God's goal for you.

Every day we get up to the gift of life, "The Present," We have an opportunity for good. Every single day we have been given another occasion to do his will.

Every day the devil throws doubt at us, that we are but a drop in the sea and what we do or say, or even believe will not amount to anything. Faith moves mountains. Perseverance wins wars, invents things, discovers things, makes new friends, helps others along the way, becomes examples of faith. A war is on daily for our faith and perseverance. We walk daily. We make decisions daily. We help others daily. We are all here for a reason. Is that reason God? Do we work for him or against him.

We must not wander doubting and depressed, doing no good in sorrow; let us live in faith, in joy, and in the freedom and promises of Jesus Christ!

One person with faith can move the world.

--Linda Gragg (Oceano, CA)

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY

Automobile executive Lee Iacocca died recently (July 2, 2019). He oversaw the development of the popular Ford Mustang (1965) which remains a very successful line. As the 1960's gave way to the 1970's Iacocca saw the trends developing for a new kind of car: smaller, economical, affordable. And so, in 1971, the Pinto was born.

Ford was not able to repeat the success they experienced with the Mustang. One of the Pinto's major problem arose with the car's basic design to have a small car with adequate trunk space. To achieve that goal, they chose to place the car's gas tank between the rear axle and the rear bumper. Accidents were followed by lawsuits which initiated a considerable amount of bad publicity, and the resulting decline in sales led to the Pinto's quiet death in 1980 (autoweek.com).

Some product design plans enjoy great success in the manufacturing world while others do not. The same is true in the realm of spiritual growth. In that area, however, the plans can be clearly identified as either divine or human in origin. If it is made by man, beware. It will prove defective. If it is from God, it will lead you to heaven (Galatians 1:6-12).

"Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14 NAS).

--David Bragg (Greensboro, NC) via Bulletin Gold

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There is a 0.0296% chance your child will become a professional athlete. There is a 100% chance your child will stand before Jesus to be judged. Get them to Bible class!