

What Will You Do With Jesus? #6

Joe Slater

What will you do with Jesus? His countrymen answer, "We will crucify Him!" When Governor Pilate asked them what he should do with Jesus, they cried out, "*Let Him be crucified!*" (Matthew 27:22). The governor objected in v. 23, but they only shouted more loudly.

Some might ask, "Why do you say these contemporaries of Jesus crucified Him? Wasn't it the Roman soldiers who actually drove the nails through His hands and feet?" Yes, that is true. But the Jews were morally responsible for it. Even our civil law today recognizes this principle. If you hire someone to commit murder, you will be prosecuted the same as if you personally committed the crime. Peter understood this principle as well. He charged the crowd on Pentecost, "*Him (Jesus) being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified and put to death*" (Acts 2:23). The Jews simply used the Roman government and military as tools to work their wickedness.

Of course no one today can literally, physically crucify Jesus; thus it would be pointless to demand, as the Jews did, that the government do so. How, then, does this apply to us? Consider: "*For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame*" (Hebrews 6:4-6, ASV). Yes, Christians can fall away. And when they do, it amounts to a repudiation of Christ and all He did for us – a re-crucifixion!

Take this seriously! What will you do with Jesus?

Persistence

"The secret is not to give up hope. It's very hard not to because if you are doing something worthwhile I think that you will be pushed to the brink of hopelessness before you come through the other side." (George Lucas)

There are times in my walk with God that I have felt like throwing in the towel and giving up. I have struggled with the same temptation and given in and sinned. When the light at the end of the tunnel cannot be seen, why not just quit? There were times that I felt it was hopeless. I would never change.

I have learned that the feeling of hopelessness comes from viewing God primarily as a judge. That has changed over the years. I have found that I cannot leave God's word alone. I had a hunger for reading His word that persisted even when I wanted to give up.

One thing that changed the way I thought about God was the parable of the talents. I realized that the one talent man was condemned for not trying (Matthew 25:14-30). The first letter of John also helped me to persist in light of my hopelessness. God desires to forgive me and will if only I will confess my sins to Him (I John 1:9).

The second chapter of I John reminded me that if I sin, then Jesus is my Advocate. This ties back to the simple fact that I must be honest and admit my sin.

My Father wants me to persist in my struggle with sin. The greater my persistence, the easier it becomes. However, if fleshly desires are less of a temptation, then perhaps pride becomes a greater problem.

Paul said, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Trust in Jesus and His cleansing blood and in the proven love of the Father. That is what my hope is based on

--Ed Wittlif (Denver, CO)

TOP TEN CHRISTIAN MYTHS

1. If a church is growing, they must be doing something right.
2. One is in good standing with God so long as He can find his name written in the Church Directory.
3. God wants you to be happy more than he wants you to be holy.
4. Teenagers must have a Youth Minister and be a part of an organized Youth Ministry to grow spiritually.
5. If it's not broken, don't fix it or change it.
6. If it's new, we shouldn't do it.
7. If it's old, we shouldn't do it.
8. If a person is struggling spiritually, give them a Bible class to teach or some other responsibility that will keep them attending.
9. Making sure we have a Bible class for all ages is more important than having qualified teachers in those classrooms (in other words, the church is a slave to the Bible class arrangement rather than the Bible class arrangement being a servant to the church).
10. Choosing to be a compassionate church or a doctrinally sound church is an "either/or" proposition.

These are a few myths that I have heard or witnessed through the years.

--Steve Higginbotham (via Bulletin Gold)