

What Will You Do With Jesus? #7

Joe Slater

Roman centurion, what will you do with Jesus? The centurion answers, “I’ll glorify Him by confessing Him as a righteous man and the Son of God.”

Up to this point, we have seen various individuals betray Jesus, deny Him, condemn Him, disclaim responsibility for Him, mock Him, and crucify Him. Now, at last, we see a positive response!

When Jesus died on the cross, Matthew 27:51-53 says, “*And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*” Then verse 54 says, “*Now when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earth quake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’*” Luke’s account gives the centurion’s brief statement: “*So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, ‘Certainly this was a righteous Man’*” (23:47).

Isn’t that something? The people who ought to have know better betrayed Him, denied Him, and had Him crucified; but here was a Roman commander, in all likelihood a pagan, who had sense enough to confess that Jesus was not only a righteous man, but the very Son of God!

Sooner or later, everyone will “*confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:9-11). You can do that today as part of the way of salvation (Romans 10:9-10); or you can wait and do it on judgment day when it will be too late.

What will you do with Jesus?

Are You A Volunteer?

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah volunteered to go and speak for God. Why did he volunteer? It wasn’t because his task was pleasant, for his message was one of judgment. It wasn’t because he wanted money, glory, or honor, for he received none of those. It wasn’t because he was assured of success, for God told him the people wouldn’t listen. It must have been difficult to begin the work knowing beforehand that he would not be successful. However, God assured him that a remnant would listen and be saved (6:12-13). That would make all his efforts worthwhile.

Most of us would be glad to teach if we knew the vast majority would listen and obey. Regrettably, we know that is not the case; therefore, we often become tired and discouraged or refuse even to begin. Isaiah can become a source of encouragement for us to volunteer to become God’s great servants. God has already asked all of us to volunteer for His service. Therefore, don’t want for someone to ask you to do something.

Isaiah volunteered to speak for God, and he was told to keep preaching until God’s predictions of destruction had been fulfilled (6:10-11). In like manner, we must keep preaching the good news of salvation, or doing whatever we can do in our Lord’s service, as long as there is a person in a house or people in a city. No, the majority may not listen; but there will be a small number, “a remnant,” who will respond and make all our efforts eternally worthwhile.

--Jerry Bates (via *The Voice of Truth International*)

MY LORD AND MY GOD

What kind of God do you believe in?

Jim McGuiggan wrote in his book *The God of the Towel*, “A God who tears mountain ranges to shreds, who rolls out light years of space like a man laying carpet, a God who flings galaxies into the empty space and lays oceans in their places with an eye-dropper – that kind of God, we think, earns the name ‘God.’”

Undoubtedly a God of such power deserves our worship. However, we have a deeper reason for reverence to Him.

In John 20:27, Jesus said to Thomas, “*Put your finger here and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.*” In verse 28 Thomas exclaimed, “*my Lord and my God!*” At this moment, it wasn’t the omnipotence of God that compelled Thomas to confess. He was floored by a God unlike any other:

“A God who will be bundled into a crowded room, with spittle falling from his beard and red welts marking his face? A God like that? A God who stands silent before an insolent and pathetic little Roman governor, a God who listens patiently to the rantings of an ecclesiastical hypocrite? A God like that? A God who blushes as he is stripped naked for crucifixion, who winces as spikes gouge their way into his feet and hands? A God who delivers himself into the hands of stupid, self-serving, brutal men – this is the God who stood before Thomas” (Jim McGuiggan).

Our invulnerable God assumed vulnerability to prove His love for us. He is living, and His love is perfect. We could have no greater reason for reverence than that which He has given us. May we hold steadfast in love and belief of the one true God!

“*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed*” (John 20:29).

--Caleb Boggs (Neosho, MO) via *Old Paths*