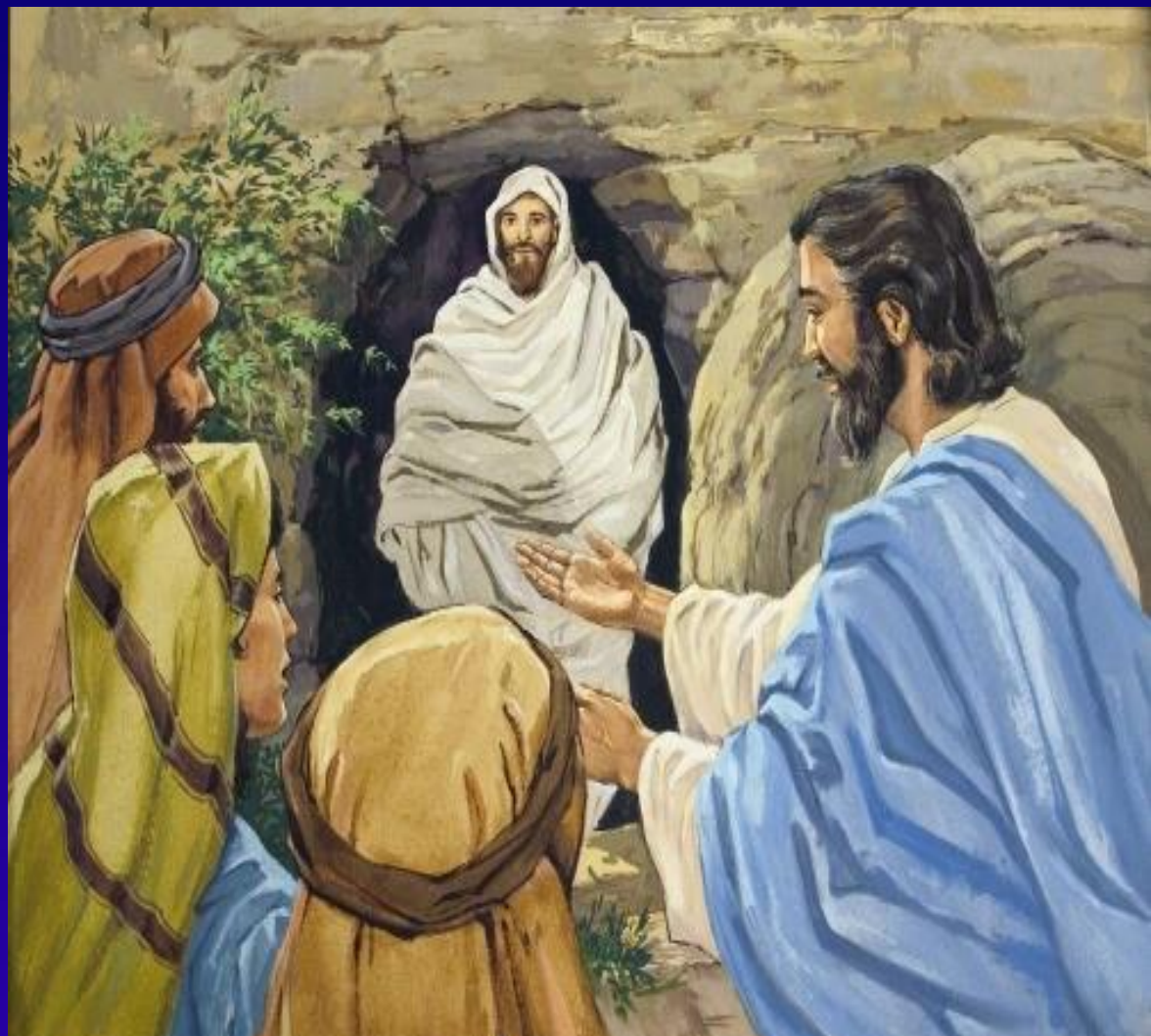


# What to Do with Jesus?



# What to Do with Jesus?

Any lawyer can tell you that whenever the star witness is a resurrected corpse, you have a pretty good case! But Lazarus being alive from the dead doesn't seem to persuade everyone. And so the big issue becomes what shall we do with Jesus?

# What to Do with Jesus?

The decisions made here set the clock in motion  
for an impending hate crime—  
the crucifixion of Christ.

# What to Do with Jesus?

But from heaven's vantage point, this is all part of God's plan for redemption. In today's message we will discover the responses and how we can make a difference.

# What to Do with Jesus?

Our choices are powerful and consequential: good or not good. Someone once said, "We make our choices and then our choices turn around and make us." Anytime a notable event happens, it takes time to process. We think it over and frame some kind of decision about that event so we can deal with it.

## *One Solitary Life*

"I am within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life."

# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

Many Jews believed

Some did not believe

It is the hardness of a human heart that rejects an alien will ruling over them; it doesn't matter what they see.

# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

They accuse Christians of being predisposed to  
belief

Unbelievers are predisposed to not believing



# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

Rich man and the poor beggar: "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "(Luke 16:31)

# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

what is your personal conviction based upon the  
truth of God's Word?  
What does the Bible say?

# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

Division is not always a bad thing

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword." (Matthew 10:34)

# I. Division--*People Are Divided over Christ* (vv. 45-46)

When people are clearly divided they know  
where they stand

"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he  
who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."  
(Matthew 12:30)

## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss Christ*

Some Are Afraid

Sadducees

Council - Sanhedrin , seventy ruling elders of  
the Jews

Not spiritual, liberal in their thinking

## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss Christ*

Didn't believe in the Old Testament except the  
first five books

Didn't believe in angels, spirits, or the  
resurrection

Political more than religious figures

## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss Christ*

Rich aristocracy of Jerusalem  
Bowed to what Rome wanted to keep their  
position and money intact

## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss* *Christ*

### Pharisees

Strictly religious

Believe the Bible and oral traditions



## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss Christ*

Sadducees' and Pharisees' hatred for Jesus exceeded their hatred for each other

Set aside their differences to come against Jesus

*"Whoever seeks God as a means toward desired ends will not find God. God will not be used."* --

A.W. Tozer

## II. Discussion--*People Will Often Discuss Christ*

Caiaphas - High Priest

Average human will speak 370, 110,001 words.

Commit to allocating some each day to tell  
others about Christ

## *The Unexpected Adventure*

"Anyone who has ever read the Bible knows that God wants us to be involved with spreading his good news far and wide. Nothing is more fulfilling than seeing ordinary people turned into extraordinary followers of God. Atheists who become missionaries.

# *The Unexpected Adventure*

Once wayward kids who are now inspired worship leaders. Hardened inmates who become compassionate pastors. Former drug abusers who rescue the lives--and souls--of addicts. Is there anything better?

## *The Unexpected Adventure*

That somehow, in some way, God might take this seemingly routine day and surprise me with an opportunity to tell someone about the good news that has the power to turn their life inside out. "

### III. Determination--*Some People Are Determined against Christ (vv. 53-54)*

In 70 A.D., Rome destroyed their city and their  
temple

According to Josephus, You couldn't tell a  
temple once stood there

III. Determination--*Some People Are  
Determined against Christ (vv. 53-54)*

"The very steps they took to save their nation  
were the steps that destroyed their nation." --

William Barclay

## Schemes to get rid of Jesus

\*Rome blamed the atrocities of their nation on the Christians (fed to Christians to lions, burned them at the stake, Caesar Nero used them as torches to light his garden, put believers in animal carcasses and let wild dogs hack them to pieces, molten lead was poured on them, etc. )



## Schemes to get rid of Jesus

\*Diocletian - another wave of persecution  
(ministers imprisoned and killed, churches  
destroyed)

The more they were attacked the more they  
grew

Worldview of Christianity became the dominant  
view in the Roman Empire

## Schemes to get rid of Jesus

\*16th century, Friedrich Nietzsche wrote *The Antichrist* -called Christians sick, despicable animals

\*18th century Voltaire: "Christianity is the most ridiculous, the most absurd, and bloody religion that has ever infected the world."

# Schemes to get rid of Jesus

"Surely the wrath of man shall praise You;"  
(Psalm 76:10)

# Schemes to get rid of Jesus

## New atheism

"The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. 'Let us break their chains,' they cry, 'and free ourselves from this slavery.' But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them." (Psalm 2:2-4 NLT)

## Salt & Light

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world.

# Salt & Light

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-15)

## Salt & Light

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." --Edmund Burke

The only thing necessary for evil to abound and Satan to triumph is for God's men and women to say and do nothing.

# Salt & Light

You must be engaged, because even among the most ardent unbelievers there may be a defector or two.

Joseph of Arimathea

Nicodemus