



Prayer Guide: What Will I Do With Jesus?

[Mark 15:1-20](#)

“Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” Mark 15:12

Our focus passage details the early morning scheming of the chief priests, elders, and scribes. After they arrested Jesus they determined to orchestrate His death so they presented Him to Pilate for examination and sentencing.

In this story, we see five possible answers to Herod’s question: What will I do with Jesus? It’s a question we, too, must answer. As we exam each response, let us consider how much our response mirrors it.

Rejection:

“And wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.” Mark 15:15

Pilate’s first question to Jesus was, “Are you the King of the Jews?” to which answered, “It is as you say.” Pilate attempted to question Him further but Jesus made no response. The chief priests, however, had plenty to say. They were relentless and “accused Him harshly.”

Pilate wanted to free Jesus but the religious leaders were adamant, determined to be done with the troublemaker. They stirred the crowd to a frenzy. “Crucify Him!” they cried over and over again.

Pilate didn’t think crucifying Jesus was the right thing, but it was the prudent thing and in the best interest of his career. Rather than stand up for what he believed was right, Pilate gave in to the pressure of the crowd. Before the day was over, nails pierced Jesus’ hands and feet and held Him to the cross.

It’s easy to tell ourselves we would never condemn or reject Jesus, but let’s take a moment to ponder.

Pause to ponder and pray:

1. How often do I give in to peer pressure?
2. Do I go with the crowd when people at school or work mock faith, use God's name in vain, or do things I know are wrong?
3. Do I defend Jesus or say nothing?
4. Have I embraced Jesus as Lord or rejected Him?
5. How can I demonstrate my loyalty and commitment to Him in a deeper way?

Admiration:

“Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus, for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him.” Luke 23:8

Herod admired Jesus and was impressed by the stories of his signs and wonders. He wanted to see Jesus do a miracle, not because he cared about the outcome of the miracle but because he wanted to see an impressive display of power. He wasn't concerned at all about Jesus' claims as Son of God or Messiah. Jesus was just another crowd-pleasing celebrity, or so he thought. Herod was more interested in entertainment than eternity.

Pause to ponder and pray:

1. Do I admire Jesus or worship Him?
2. Am I impressed by Him or convicted by Him?
3. Do I want what He can do **for** me or what He can do **in** me?
4. If Jesus is who He says He is (and He is) then He is one with God, existed before the earth was created, and has the authority to forgive sin and determine our eternal destination. Do I live as if I embrace that reality?
5. Does Jesus see me as an admirer or a follower?
6. What change does Jesus want in me?

Replacement:

“But the governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Matthew 27:21

The crowd, stirred by the chief priests, caught up in a froth of emotion, did as they were told. When given the choice between Jesus, the Spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, or Barabbas, a murdering insurrectionist, they chose Barabbas. Their short-sighted decision could not be reversed. The soldiers took Him away, tortured Him, mocked Him, and crucified Him.

Would you choose Barabbas over Jesus? Our quick answer is probably, “Of course not.” It's easy to say but consider the crowd. They had Jesus in the flesh and many saw His signs, wonders, and miracles in person. Despite their personal experience, they replaced Him with Barabbas.

Pause to ponder and pray:

1. What have I used as a replacement for Jesus? Electronics? Social Media? Friends? Family?
2. Even good things can take precedent over Jesus and our time with Him and, when they do, they are a “replacement.” How have I replaced Jesus? Failed to put Him first?
3. What changes does Jesus want to see in me?

Irrelevant:

“And they dressed Him up in purple, and after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and they kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting at Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. And after they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him and put His garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.” Mark 15:16-20

The Roman soldiers weren't Jewish. They didn't need a Jewish rabbi or a Jewish Messiah. Or so they thought. The entire company (possibly as many as 250 soldiers) joined to ridicule, mock, and torture Him. As far as they were concerned, He had no relevance to their lives at all and they treated Him as a joke.

Would we treat Jesus as irrelevant? When we make jokes about Holy things, take God's name in vain, or ignore the ways of Christ in favor of the ways of the world, we treat Him as irrelevant.

Pause to ponder and pray:

1. Ask God to reveal how He views your treatment of Jesus. Do you treat Him as priceless or as irrelevant?
2. Do you make jokes at His expense?
3. Are you more likely to ridicule Jesus or defend Him?
4. If you've mocked Him or treated Him as irrelevant, now is the time to confess your sin, ask for forgiveness, and determine to treat Him with the respect due the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Surrender/Crown Him as Lord:

No one crowned Jesus as King of Kings that unholy day on which He was crucified but in heaven, He wears a crown and receives the honor and worship He deserves. What about you? Would a causal observer look at your life and your walk of faith and find a sold-out disciple, one who serves Jesus as Lord and Master?

Pause to ponder and pray:

1. All of us respond to Jesus in one of these five ways. Rejection. Admiration. Replacement. Irrelevant. Surrender. Which most describes your response to Jesus?
2. Our lifestyles reflect the choice we make. What does your lifestyle say about you?
3. If Jesus is not your Lord and Master, now is the time to make things right. Stop now to confess your sin, repent and turn from your sin, and surrender completely to Him.
4. Make a note in your journal of the date and your decision and write a prayer of complete surrender.
5. If you are not involved in a Bible study, we strongly recommend you find one and begin to study the Scripture as if it contains the Words of Life, because it does.