

“WHAT I DO WITH JESUS?”

BY KEITH GREER

“Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” {Matthew 27:22} The Jews determined to kill Jesus and sought help from Rome and Pilate to accomplish this evil plot. None were able to prove even one claim against Him, so Pilate knowing He was innocent, wanted to release Him. He asked the mob, **“WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?”** The answer was **“CRUCIFY HIM!”** Today, the same question comes to you. Before you answer, examine with me what some others did when they had the opportunity to answer this vital question.

Judas—sold Him for 30 pieces of silver. *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.” {Matthew 26:14-16}* One of the chosen twelve by the Master to carry on His work, sought opportunity to betray Him because of greed in his heart.

Fallen Christians—crucify Him again. *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” {Hebrews 6:4-6}* Sadly, those who fall away, in a sense, re-crucify the Lord. They forget that He purged them from their previous sins and that they had promised to love and obey Him. Good news—they can undo their wrong by returning to him, repenting, and seeking His forgiveness.

Peter denied Him. *“Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly.” {Matthew 26:74.75}* Just a few hours earlier, Peter had sworn with an oath that if necessary he would die for his Lord. Yet, in the presence of the enemy, out of fear for his own life, he denied the Lord three times!

Some disciples walked with Him no more. *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”* {John 6:66} Jesus gave some hard sayings. When they understood the cost of discipleship and what it called upon them to do, some were unwilling to continue with Him. Sadly, this still happens with some Christians today. When they realize that being a Christian means more than assembling a few times during the week, they are unwilling to totally give themselves to Him, so they WALK WITH HIM NO MORE!

Felix postponed obedience. *“And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”* {Acts 24:24,25} Others have taken this same route. Knowing and understanding their need to obey the Lord, they wait for a convenient time, postponing their obedience until it better fits their schedule. Sadly, many die before that day comes!

Agrippa was almost persuaded. *“Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”* {Acts 26:28} Almost is not enough! Agrippa was close, yet so far away. I’ve seen people crying and clutching the back of the pew to keep from obeying the gospel or repenting and returning to the Lord! Finally, again I ask you the same question: **“WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?”** All of you will answer this question today—what will your answer be? ***