WHAT Will YOU DO With Jesus - Called The Christ? - Matt. 27:17-26

Intro:
A. This lesson brings to a close the series of lessons I have focused on this month on what evidences there is for the Man/Son of God/Savior and Redeemer - Jesus the Christ has been left for us to examine.
1. With every aspect of evidence the case is laid out and the jury is asked to determine a verdict. Such is the case with Jesus Christ, the evidence is laid out and the Jury is you - but the question is WHAT WILL YOU DO with it?

B. Pilate asked this question - and the answer of the crowd was REJECTION - it is my prayer that you will pay close attention to what I have to say in this lesson today - Because it is my prayer that YOU realize that YOU are the ONE (mention song here - I’m the One) that put the Son of God upon the cross - but that gift of God John 3:16 is of no good to you if you like the crowds - “SHOUT CRUCIFY HIM!”
1. Matthew 27:17-26 (NKJV) - 17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” 18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.” 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” 22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!”
2. NOTE ---- (NKJV) - 22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"
   a. The same two choices faces you here today ---- Accept Him and LIVE or REJECT Him and DIE!

C. Events that lead up to our text.....
1. Betrayed & arrested - Matt 26:47-56
   a. Matthew 26:47-56 (NKJV) - 47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.” 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. 51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” 55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

2. Before Annas - John 18:12
   a. John 18:12 (NKJV) - 12 Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

3. Taken to Caiphas & Sanhedrin - Matt 26:57-67
Matthew 26:57-67 (NKJV) - 57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. 58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, 60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ” 62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” 64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.” 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands.

4. Taken to Pilate - Matt 27:2, 11-14
a. Matthew 27:2 (NKJV) - 2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

b. Matthew 27:11-14 (NKJV) - 11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.” 12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” 14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

5. Taken to Herod - Luke 23:8-11
a. Luke 23:8-11 (NKJV) - 8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. 11 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

6. Back to Pilate, who sought to release Him . . .
   a. All of this thru the Night ---- most surely everyone would agree was illegal and a truly Kangaroo court.
   b. Jesus endured all this - WHY? Because He LOVES YOU & ME!

D. Our Text - Matthew 27:15-26

1. Everyone will have to answer this question - What will you do with Jesus? No GREATER QUESTION confronts you than this one.
   2. Look at this question as:
      a. PERSONAL
      b. PERTINENT
      c. PRESSING
      d. PRESENT

E. Let’s begin the study now!

II. What Will Be Will Always BE.....
A. There are two answers to the question - “Belief” or “Unbelief” - Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV) 13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and
1. People manifested their “unbelief” in a variety of ways in the New Testament!
2. People answer the question in the same ways today

B. Look at these examples of what others have done with Jesus:

1. Judas betrayed Him - Matthew 26:14-16 (NKJV) - 14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 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. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

2. Peter denied Him - Matthew 26:69-75 (NKJV) - 69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.” 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 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.

3. The crowd cried “crucify Him” - Matthew 27:22-23 (NKJV) - 22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” 23 Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!”

4. Pilate tried to be neutral - Matthew 27:23-24 (NKJV) - 23 Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.”

5. Saul persecuted Him - Acts 9:1-5 (NKJV) - 1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” 5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6. Felix postponed Him - Acts 24:24-25 (NKJV) - 24 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. 25 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.”

7. Agrippa was almost persuaded - Acts 26:28 (NKJV) - 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

8. But... Many were & are persuaded - Acts 2:36-47 (NKJV) - 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” 40 And with many other words he testified and exHORTed them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then
fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

III. In Conclusion:

A. Why not obey the gospel today - 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV) - 2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
1. Believe in him – John 8:24 (NKJV) - 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
2. Repent of your sins – Luke 13:3 (NKJV) - 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
3. Confess Him – Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) - 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
4. Be baptized into Him for the remission of your sins – Acts 22:16 (NKJV) - 16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’
5. Remain faithful to him – Revelation 2:10 (NKJV) - 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

B. To refuse to obey Him we:
1. Betray Him ; Deny Him ; Cry crucify Him ; Hurt Him?
2. No excuse . . .
   a. Can’t be neutral - Do not put Him off -
   b. Almost persuaded is to be altogether lost

C. On the Judgment Day Your Opportunity to Answer the Question Will Be Forever Gone … Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) - 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
1. The Question On That Day Will Be - “What Will Jesus Do With YOU!”- (John 12:48; 2 Thess 1:7-9)
   a. John 12:48 (NKJV) - 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
   b. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NKJV) - 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,