

Garden to Garden - Part 6

FAQs: What Will I Do With Jesus? (Matthew 27:11-31.)

Q: What was the key question Pilate posed regarding Jesus, and why is it significant?

A: Pilate asked, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" This question is significant because it represents the ultimate decision every individual must make about Jesus. The way a person answers this question will determine where they spend eternity.

Q: What were the charges brought against Jesus, and why did the Jewish leaders present them in this way?

A: The Jewish leaders initially condemned Jesus for blasphemy in their own religious court, claiming He declared Himself to be God. However, to persuade the Roman governor Pilate to execute Jesus, they shifted the charges to political ones, accusing Him of claiming to be the "King of the Jews." This was presented as a challenge to Caesar's authority and, thus, treason, a crime under Roman law that Pilate would be compelled to address.

Q: How did Jesus respond to Pilate's initial inquiry about being the King of the Jews?

A: Jesus responded to Pilate's question ("Are you the King of the Jews?") with a nuanced statement: "You have said so." According to the Gospel of John, Jesus elaborated by saying, "My kingdom is not of this world." His response acknowledged His kingship but clarified that it was not a political threat to Rome, thereby



masterfully navigating Pilate's concerns while not denying His divine identity.

Q: Despite the accusations against him, why did Jesus remain largely silent before Pilate and His accusers?

A: Jesus' silence served two main purposes. Firstly, it demonstrated His complete surrender to the will of God the Father, a decision He had already made in the Garden of Gethsemane. Secondly, His silence fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which foretold that the Messiah would be like a lamb led to slaughter who would not open His mouth. This silence was not a sign of weakness but of profound strength and obedience.

Q: Why was Pilate astonished by Jesus, and what actions did he take to try and release him?

A: Pilate was greatly amazed by Jesus' wisdom, resoluteness, and fearlessness, especially in the face of grave accusations. Recognizing Jesus' innocence and perceiving the envy of the religious leaders, Pilate attempted to release Jesus by leveraging a Passover custom. He offered the crowd a choice between freeing Jesus or Barabbas, a notorious prisoner, expecting the people to choose Jesus.

Q: How did the crowd's demand for Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus come about?

A: The chief priests and elders actively persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus. They may have used bribery or further lies and propaganda to sway public opinion against Jesus. Despite Pilate's attempts to reason



with them and his questioning of what evil Jesus had done, the crowd vehemently insisted on His crucifixion.

Q: What does the release of Barabbas and the condemnation of Jesus symbolize in the context of the text's message?

A: The release of Barabbas, the guilty prisoner, and the condemnation of Jesus, the innocent one, can be viewed as a symbolic exchange. Barabbas represents humanity, guilty of sin and deserving of punishment. Jesus, by taking Barabbas' place and ultimately the punishment of crucifixion, embodies the substitutionary atonement, where the innocent Christ takes the penalty for the sins of humanity, offering freedom and righteousness to those who believe in Him.

Q: What is the central takeaway message or "final exam question" presented in the sermon, and what are its implications for us?

A: The central message is framed as a final examination question for every person: "What did you do with Jesus?" This is the ultimate question that will determine one's eternal destiny. It emphasizes that other factors like comparing oneself to others, performing good deeds, or attending church are not the basis of this judgment. Instead, the crucial factor is one's response to Jesus in this life, whether they accept Him as Savior and King. Now is the time to answer this question before it is too late.

