

Who Gets To Live? | Matthew 27:21-22

*JESUS has been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane after being betrayed by Judas Iscariot.
30 pieces of silver.*

That's all it took for someone in the close circle ministry of JESUS to betray HIM.

"Hey! Aren't you a disciple of JESUS?"

Peter would answer, "I don't know the man!"

Not once. Not twice. Three times Peter would deny HIM.

The rest of the disciples would abandon HIM the night HE was arrested.

JESUS is on trial in the middle of the night with Caiaphas & the Jewish Counsel.

HE is accused of blasphemy against GOD.

After being found guilty, JESUS is then sent to Pilate for what they believe will be swift action to deal with JESUS & HIS blasphemous claims of being the Messiah.

Pilate can't find any fault in JESUS at all, but that doesn't set well with the crowd, for they want HIM crucified.

Crucifixion – a torturous death.

Pilate questions the decision to crucify JESUS & goes to work to defend HIM – offering the crowd a choice.

The well-known murderer Barabbas - Or JESUS, KING of the Jews?

Which one should be released?

Which one should live & which one should die?

That is the question in our text this morning.

Matthew 27:21 - The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

Matthew 27:22 - Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

The title of my message today is "Who Gets To Live?"



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There are two specific questions asked in these two verses.

Every man & woman has to make a choice when facing the cross.

Which one will live & which one shall die?

Will I surrender to JESUS & let HIM live in me?

Or will I crucify HIM in my heart, in my mind, in my spirit, in my soul – and live how I want to live?

That's the question that has to be answered today.

Which one will I release unto myself?

Does the Barabbas in me get to live or does CHRIST in me get to live?

A real test of becoming a Christ follower is:

1. DIE DAILY

✠ **1 Corinthians 15:31 ~ I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.**

The circumstances we face in life will challenge us to DIE DAILY or fight to live.

This means letting JESUS have control – not the desires of our flesh

Who gets to call the shots – you are JESUS?

Who will you turn loose at the controls of your heart, mind & emotions?

Who will you release unto you?

When confronted with the cross, man has to make a decision.

The decision to accept his own sin - or have his sin debt paid.

And that means we must address the second question.

What shall I do with JESUS?

You cannot approach the cross & avoid this question.

Yes, JESUS hung on the cross for the sins of the world, but believe it or not, many have & will reject HIM.

No matter who you are – you must answer the question: “What shall I do with JESUS?”

For those who seek forgiveness for their sins – they must:



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2. LET JESUS LIVE

✝ Galatians 2:20 ~ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

We can't come to the cross for forgiveness – the cry “crucify him” in our hearts.

We must let JESUS live in us.

We must decide what we will do with JESUS.

We must make a choice - who gets to live & who gets crucified.

When we decide to let JESUS live in us, then we are gaining more than this world could ever offer.

✝ Philippians 1:21 ~ For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

✝ Mark 8:36 ~ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

It's when we have died to self, when we truly begin to live.

✝ Matthew 10:39 ~ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Judas refused to die to self – betraying JESUS.

Peter was ashamed or embarrassed & that resulted into - denying JESUS.

The disciples were more concerned about their own situation - abandoning JESUS.

What about You – who will you surrender to?

“Which one will you release unto yourself?”

This will all depend on who you will let live in you.

CONCLUSION: *“Who Gets To Live” & “Who Gets Crucified” means you have to decide:*

“What shall I do with JESUS?” – Will you betray HIM, deny HIM or abandon HIM?

Today we celebrate HIS Resurrection – LET JESUS RISE IN YOU!

