



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



The Choices We Make...

Matthew 27:15-23



JUDAS CHOSE TO BETRAY JESUS

The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray him, answered "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "**You have said so.**"

Matthew 26:24-25



THE JEWISH LEADERS CHOSE TO KILL JESUS

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, **how to destroy him.**

Matthew 12:14



THE JEWISH LEADERS CHOSE TO KILL JESUS

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, **and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.**

Matthew 26:3-4



PONTIUS PILATE CHOSE THE DEATH SENTENCE

Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Matthew 27:26



THE CROWD CHOSE BARRABAS

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them,



THE CROWD CHOSE BARRABAS

“Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said, “Let him be crucified!” And he said,

“Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

Matthew 27:20-23



WHO IS TO BLAME?

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and **washed his hands** before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

And all the people answered, “**His blood be on us and on our children!**”

Matthew 27:24-25



PETER'S ANSWER...

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—



PETER'S ANSWER...

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 2:22-23



THE CROSS WAS GOD'S PLAN!

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,



THE CROSS WAS GOD'S PLAN!

and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and **the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Isaiah 53:4-6



JESUS WAS DETERMINED TO GO TO THE CROSS

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say?

‘Father, save me from this hour’? But **for this purpose** I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

John 12:27-28



GOD HAS A SOVEREIGN PLAN,
BUT OUR CHOICES MATTER!

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, **whether good or evil.**

2 Corinthians 5:10



GOD HAS A SOVEREIGN PLAN,
BUT OUR CHOICES MATTER!

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will **give**
account for every careless word they speak,

Matthew 12:36



“WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH CHRIST?”

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.



“WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH CHRIST?”

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:9-13



Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even



death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11



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