

Matthew 27:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified (Σταυρωθήτω)—The Greek imperative staurōthētō (let him be crucified) demands the most shameful, agonizing death Rome inflicted. Crucifixion was so horrific that Roman citizens were exempt; it was for slaves and rebels.

Pilate's question hangs over history: 'What shall I do with Jesus?' Every person must answer. Neutrality is impossible—even Pilate's attempted non-decision became a decision. The crowd's unanimous demand (pantes, all) shows mass complicity in deicide.

Historical Context

Crucifixion involved scourging, mockery, carrying the crossbeam (patibulum), public nakedness, nailing or binding to the cross, and slow asphyxiation over hours or days. It was designed for maximum pain and humiliation, deterring rebellion through terror.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Pilate's question 'What shall I do with Jesus?' confront every person with an unavoidable choice?
2. What does the demand for crucifixion—the most shameful death—reveal about the depth of hatred toward God's holiness?

Interlinear Text

λέγουσιν αὐτῷ τὸν Πιλᾶτος Τί οὖν ποιήσω Ἰησοῦν
is called unto him which Pilate What then shall I do with Jesus
G3004 G846 G3588 G4091 G5101 G3767 G4160 G2424

τὸν λέγουσιν Χριστόν; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ πάντες
which is called Christ is called unto him They all
G3588 G3004 G5547 G3004 G846 G3956

Σταυρωθήτω

Let him be crucified

G4717

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:7 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

Acts 13:38 (Parallel theme): Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: