

## DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH JESUS

Mark 15:20-16:20

April 21, 2019

### FOUR COMMON RESPONSES TO JESUS:

1. Skepticism and Doubt – the soldiers, religious leaders and the crowd  
(Mark 15:29-32, 36)

*In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with him taunted him. – Mark 15:31-32 HCSB*

2. Religious Compliance – Simon of Cyrene

*They forced a man coming in from the country, who was passing by, to carry Jesus’ cross. He was Simon of Cyrene.... – Mark 15:21 HCSB*

3. Acknowledgement and Respect – The Roman centurion

*And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” – Mark 15:39 NIV*

4. Faith and Commitment – The women who followed Jesus

*Some women were there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph) and Salome. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.... Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” – Mark 15:40-41 & 16:1-3 NLT*

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES FAITH IN JESUS MAKE?

#### WE RECEIVE...

1. Forgiveness and freedom rather than bondage and punishment.

*And then [Jesus] told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.” – Mark 16:15-16 NLT*

*[God] is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. – Ephesians 1:7 NLT*

## 2. Supernatural power at work in us rather than living by our own strength

*“These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. ...They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” – Mark 16:17-18 NLT*

*“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.” – John 14:12-13 NLT*

## 3. Acceptance into God’s family rather than loneliness and isolation

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become the children of God. – John 1:12 NLT*

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. – Romans 10:9-10, 13 NLT*