

# "The Choice"

# ALIVE

EASTER at HERITAGE NAZARENE CHURCH

## ICE BREAKERS

- ✝ What are some things that make God awesome?
- ✝ What do you think heaven will be like? What pictures come to your mind when you think of our awesome God in heaven?
- ✝ Is heaven a choice or a right?
- ✝ How can we get there?

**(Read Romans 10:9)**

**NOTE:** Heaven is actually a by-product of a choice we make to believe and live for Jesus Christ! Life is about making choices! The choices you make today will define how people view you tomorrow!

## Let's look at 6 CHOICES found in John 12 & 19 that defined Jesus and others!

### **READ John 12:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

### **1. Jesus had a choice to enter Jerusalem or not!**

- ✝ What choice did Jesus make here? Did he have to enter into Jerusalem?

### **READ Luke 19:41**

<sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.



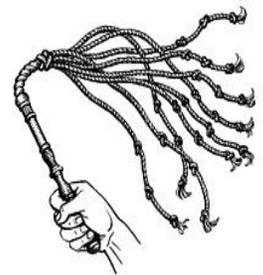
- ✝ Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem before He entered it?
- ✝ Did Jesus know this trip into Jerusalem would end in a cross with His name on it?

### **READ John 19:1**

<sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

### **2. Pilate had a choice to flog Jesus or not!**

- ✝ Are there still floggings in today's world? Where?
- ✝ Are they different than what the Romans did?

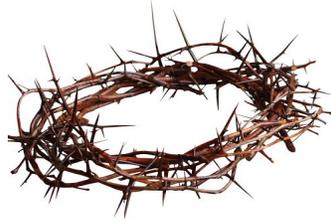


**NOTE:** The Romans took torture to a new level. They borrowed ideas from other nations and then made them their own. The cat of nine tails was a weapon of mass destruction, leaving many men dead and others to die of mass infection days later. Under Jewish law, Jesus most likely received **39** lashes.

✠ Did Jesus deserve to be flogged? Whose flogging did He take?

**READ John 19:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> **The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe**  
<sup>3</sup> **and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.**



**3. The soldiers had a choice to mock Jesus or not!**

✠ Through your words, deeds, or actions, have you ever mocked Jesus? What choices have you made in the past that mocked Him?

**NOTE:** Jesus took a mockery and a beating for you! Would you take one for Him?

**READ John 19:6**

<sup>6</sup> **As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."**



**4. The Jews had a choice to crucify Jesus or not!**

**NOTE:** Jesus was tried **6** times by Roman & Jewish authorities, but never convicted of a crime deserving death.

✠ Did Pilate think Jesus was innocent?

✠ Why did the Jewish authorities want Jesus dead?

✠ Why would they choose crucifixion?

✠ How do you die from crucifixion?

✠ Why would Jesus allow himself to be crucified?

**NOTE:** He was the atonement for our sins. His blood for our blood. It should have been us dying for our sins! Instead Jesus said "I will die for your sins!" Praise the Lord!



**READ John 19:16**

<sup>16</sup> **Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.**

**5. Jesus had a choice to follow the Father's plan or not!**

✠ What did Pilate do in this verse?

✠ Did Jesus have a choice to follow God's plan or call down legions of angels to destroy all who would crucify Him?

✠ Why did He choose the cross?



✠ What does His dying for you mean to you?

**READ John 19:25**

<sup>25</sup> **Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

**6. You have a choice to stand with Jesus or not!**