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Did Constantine convert you?

Most people have their religions determined by their geographical position. As children, we usually follow the faith of our parents or the cultural environment we are inserted. When we grow up and become aware of religion, we tend to seek our paths. And if you are an emperor, your religious choices can influence the belief of thousands of people in your time and the future.

Constantine the Great was a Roman Emperor who ruled from 306 to 337 AD. He is known for his military victories, his conversion to Christianity, and his role in establishing Christianity as the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine is also remembered for his reforms, including the creation of a new capital city in Byzantium (later named Constantinople) and his efforts to stabilize the economy and the political structure of the empire. Significant changes in the Roman Empire marked his reign, and he is considered one of the most influential figures in world history.

Constantine's conversion to Christianity is often attributed to his vision before the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 AD. According to legend, he saw a picture of a cross in the sky with the words "In this sign, conquer." Constantine interpreted this as a sign from God and ordered his troops to paint the Chi-Rho symbol (a symbol of Christ) on their shields, which helped him win the battle. This event is often called the "miracle of the sun."

We must consider his conversion as a political move. Christianity was becoming increasingly popular in the Roman Empire at the time, and many people were converting to the

faith. By embracing Christianity, Constantine could gain the support of this growing population segment and unify the empire under a single religion. Additionally, by converting to Christianity, Constantine could distance himself from the old pagan beliefs that many people still adhered to, which would help him consolidate his power. However, it's also possible that Constantine genuinely believed in Christianity and wanted to embrace the faith. There are accounts of Constantine attending Christian services and supporting the Church, which suggests that he was at least interested in the religion.

Political and personal factors likely influenced Constantine's conversion to Christianity. While the exact reasons for his conversion may never be fully known, it is clear that his decision had a significant impact on the history of Christianity and the world. But we could imagine a different scenario if Constantine had converted to Mithraism rather than Christianity. It is possible that Mithraism could have become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire, and the course of history would have been different.

Mithraism was a mystery religion popular among soldiers in the Roman Empire, and it was similar in some ways to Christianity. Both religions emphasized the concept of salvation, had rituals involving the consumption of bread and wine, and celebrated the birth of a savior figure. Although, there were also some critical differences between the two religions. Mithraism was a male-only religion, and it had a hierarchical structure with seven levels of initiation. Christianity, on the other hand, was open to all people, and it emphasized equality and love for one's fellow humans.

If Constantine had converted to Mithraism, it is possible that the religion would have spread more rapidly throughout the Roman Empire, as it would have had the support of the

Emperor. This could have led to a different cultural and social landscape, as Mithraism would have become the dominant religion rather than Christianity.

However, it's difficult to say precisely how history would have unfolded if Constantine had converted to Mithraism instead of Christianity. Christianity had already gained a significant following by the time of Constantine's conversion, and it could have continued to grow in popularity, even without the support of the Emperor. Additionally, the principles of Mithraism may have been less conducive to developing the social and moral values associated with Christianity in Western culture. Maybe today we are Christians because Constantine converted in the past. Or maybe not. We don't know how God writes our stories, but we know that His will always prevails.