
The Healing Of Malchus' Ear

Luke 22:49-51

All four **Gospel** writers record that one of **Christ's disciples** cut off the ear of a "**servant of the high priest**" (**Matthew 26:51; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50; John 18:10**). Only **Luke** records the **miracle of restoration (22:51)**. **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** do not identify who it was that took the action of severing the ear of the servant, saying only; "**one of them**" (**Matthew 26:51; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50**), but **John** records that it was **Peter (John 18:10)**. **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** do not give the identity of the one who had his ear severed, saying only that it was a "**servant of the high priest**" (**Matthew 26:51; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50**), but **John** records; "**The servant's name was Malchus**" (**John 18:10**). **John** would mention him later, without giving his name (**John 18:26**).

I. THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MIRACLE

① **Jesus Goes Forth To Gethsemane:**

Following the **Passover meal**, and the institution of the **Lord's Supper** with the **eleven, Jesus** led them out into the darkness of the **Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:30, 36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39; John 18:1)**. From these four accounts we learn that **Gethsemane** was a garden in the **Mount Of Olives** and it was a place where **Jesus** often went to pray (**John 18:2**). As **Jesus** and the **eleven apostles** arrived at **Gethsemane, Jesus** said; "**Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder**" (**Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32**). He then took **Peter, James, and John** further into the garden with Him (**Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:33**). As He was doing so, He began to feel the weight of the sins of the people given to Him of the **Father** before the foundation of the world, and in addition to feeling this great weight of sin, **Satan**, in an attempt to prevent **Christ** from going to the cross sought to kill Him. The consequence of all of this was a great **sorrow** and **heaviness (Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:34)**. He then instructed **Peter, James, and John** to tarry, and He went a little way from them (**Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:35; Luke 22:41**) and while engulfed with **sorrow, anguish, affliction, torment and torture** of soul, He prayed **three** times; "**let this cup pass from Me**" (**Matthew 26:39-44**). The "**cup**" does not have reference to the **cross**, but rather to what He was experiencing at that very moment! HE WAS NOT LOOKING TO AVOID THE CROSS, HE WAS PRAYING THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE SPARED SO THAT HE COULD GO TO THE CROSS!

② **Jesus Goes Forth To Be Arrested:**

After praying, and enduring an intense battle with **Satan**, and after **Judas** had made his agreement to betray Him, **Jesus** arises with a spirit of readiness and eager anticipation to go forth in the path that would lead to the cross (**Matthew 26:46; Mark 14:41-42; John 18:4**). It was while **Jesus** spoke these words that **Judas** arrived with a group to arrest **Christ** (**Matthew 26:47**). **Judas** arrived with “a band of men (a tenth part of a legion, approximately 500 men), and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.....with lanterns and torches and weapons” (**John 18:3**). They came with “lanterns and torches” because they believed that **Christ** would attempt to hide, and with “a band of men.....and weapons” because they believed that **Christ** would have to be taken by force! IN THEIR MINDS, CHRIST WOULD HAVE TO BE CAPTURED! But this was not the case! JESUS WENT UNTO THEM, asking; “Whom seek ye?” (**John 18:4**). They answered (**John 18:5**), and in response, **Jesus** said “I am” revealing the glory of His Person, with the direct result being; “they went backward, and fell to the ground” ((**John 18:6**). Though they came with “a band of men.....with lanterns and torches and weapons” CHRIST WAS IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION! **Jesus** repeated His question, and they repeated their answer, and **Jesus** again said “I am” followed by the instruction; “if therefore ye seek Me, let these (the apostles) go their way” (**John 18:7-8**). **Jesus** was saying; “Here I am, take Me, but let these go free” This is a beautiful illustration of the work of **Christ** for His people! From all of this, it is clearly manifested that **Christ** voluntarily and willingly offered Himself to arrest and ultimately to the death of the cross! He readily, intentionally, and deliberately submitted Himself! THE CALMNESS OF CHRIST IS VERY MANIFEST! There is the lesson; that the time during which evil is permitted to triumph is limited by **God** (**Luke 22:53**), and that **God** is sovereign over everything! The wicked can do nothing without His permission!

③ **The Severing Of The Ear Of Malchus:**

Luke records that when the **apostles** realized that this “band of men” were going to take **Christ**, that they asked **Christ**; “shall we smite with the sword?” (**22:49**). It was about this time that that this “band of men” reached forth to take **Jesus**, and **Peter** in his zeal, and without waiting for **Jesus**’ answer wielded his sword (one of two swords that they possessed **verse 38**) with the intent of beheading **Malchus**, but due to the sovereign power of **God** he missed and only cut off his ear (**Matthew 26:50-51; Mark 14:46-47; Luke 22:50; John 18:10**). THERE ARE MANY LESSONS IN THIS EVENT! **Christ** has already manifested that He is in complete and absolute control of this situation, yet **Peter** in his zeal, took matters into his own hands, without considering the will of the **Lord**! IT IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS! **Christ** lovingly rebuked **Peter** for his action (**Matthew 26:52-54; Luke 22:51; John 18:11**). He was saying to **Peter**, “if you think this is the way you will be protected, you are wrong” and then He again reiterated (whether Peter understood it or not) “that all of this was necessary for the work of God the Father had given Christ” **Peter** had not

really surrendered to the truth that **Christ** revealed to Him back in **Matthew 16:21**. CHRIST WAS COMPLETELY SURRENDERED TO GOD'S WILL, PETER WAS NOT! **Peter** acted from a zeal without knowledge, and in unconsidered haste, and **such is very dangerous!** **Peter's** behavior at this time was **emotion driven**, and was completely **reactionary**, and though **Peter**, no doubt loved the **Lord**, and no doubt wanted what was best, **his behavior brought harm and destruction!** **Peter** acting in such haste was really the result of a failure to heed **Christ's** word; *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (**Matthew 26:41**). THERE IS MUCH DANGER IN NOT GIVING HEED TO SUCH! We see from **Peter's** action; that **more than excitement, zeal, and good intentions are required in the service of the Lord!** This was not the first time that **Peter** acted with unwise zeal, and in hastiness, **Peter** was a very impulsive person, as seen throughout the **Gospel** accounts. In **Matthew 16:21-23** he actually thought that he had a better way than **Christ** and rebuked Him. He manifested his impulsiveness on the *Mount Of Transfiguration*, and **Christ** had to say; *"Hold on Peter, lets not give equal status to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah"* (**Matthew 17:1-5**). On the night of the **Passover**, **Jesus** was washing the feet of the **apostles**, and when He came to **Peter** to wash his feet; **Peter's** response to **Christ** was *"No way are you washing my feet!"* (**John 13:4-8**). And now, on the night of **Christ's** arrest, **Peter** once again **reacts with unwise zeal, and in much haste!** This action of **Peter**, along with the personal profile of **Peter** serves as a warning! Though **Peter** loved the **Lord**, and was a valuable servant, **he was the most rebuked of the apostles by the Lord!**

II. THE MIRACLE

① **Christ Restores The Ear Of Malchus:**

Again, **Luke** is the only one who records the actual miracle, simply writing; *"And He (Jesus) touched his ear, and healed him"* (**Luke 22:51**). **Luke**, being a physician; **this absolutely amazed him!** The ear of **Malchus** was probably hanging by a thread, and **Jesus** simply reached forth and *"touched his ear"* and the immediate result was that **Malchus** was healed (*as if his ear had never been severed*). Once again, this illustrates **the power of Christ's touch** (**Matthew 8:15; 17:7; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:14**). THERE IS RESTORING POWER IN THE SIMPLE TOUCH OF THE LORD! In one act, and in one moment, CHRIST BROUGHT RESTORATION! **The damage that was done was nullified by the intervention of Christ!** This is yet another example of **the transforming, restoring power, and sufficiency of Christ, and the difference that He can make!** In this event, there is a manifestation of **Christ's** power to destroy (*as seen in the fact that they fell backward at the revelation of Christ*), and His power to heal (*as seen in the restoration of Malchus' ear*). This miracle manifests the hardness of heart in man, as seen in the fact that it had no effect upon them!

② **This Is A Manifestation Of Christ's Mercy:**

Malchus was an **enemy** of the **Lord**, and acting with hostility and enmity toward **Christ** when his ear was severed, and yet we read; *“And He touched his ear, and healed him”* OH, WHAT GRACE AND MERCY! The **Lord** is **gracious** and **merciful** (**Exodus 34:6; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:17, 31; Psalm 116:5**). **Grace** is “God’s favor that gives us blessings that we do not deserve” **Mercy** is “God withholding what we deserve” *“And He touched his ear, and healed him”* As in all the healing miracles of **Christ**; THIS IS A MANIFESTATION OF GRACE AND MERCY!

The miracle of restoring the ear of **Malchus** brings to light that **the Lord can and does fix the damage that man can cause!** MAN CAN CAUSE GREAT HARM, BUT THERE IS A MIRACULOUS WORKING POWER IN THE LORD! All through the **Gospel** accounts there are recorded the **miraculous works of Christ!** **Matthew, Mark, Luke,** and **John**, under the inspiration of the **Holy Spirit** give eye-witness account of the various **miracles** of **Christ**. They give account of **Christ’s miraculous power** over **nature**, over human **ailments**, and **disability**, over **demonic forces**, and over **death!** These are attributed to **Christ** (**John 2:11, 23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2, 14**), and are called *“mighty works”* (**Mark 6:14; Luke 10:13**). These were done to **authenticate the mission of Christ** (**Luke 7:20-22; John 5:36; John 10:25, 38**). On the day of **Pentecost** (**Acts 2:22**), **Peter** declared; *“Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles, and wonders, and signs, which (miracles, wonders, & signs), God did by Him (Jesus Of Nazareth), in the midst of you (they were done publicly), as ye yourselves also know”* (there was no doubt that He had done these things). It was by these **miraculous works** that **Jesus** was **set forth** as the **Christ**, as the **Almighty** One, and as the **Lord** of all! These **miraculous works** revealed that He was and is the one and only **Savior**, the one and only **Emancipator**, who is **above** all, **beyond** all, **superior** to all, and the One who takes **precedence** over all! These **miraculous works** were done to **promote and strengthen faith** (**John 10:37-38; 14:11; 20:30-31**), to **portray the needs of man, and the salvation and sufficiency that is in Christ!** It is important to remember, that the recorded **miracles** of **Christ**, are only but a small portion of His **miraculous works**. **John** records, that if all the **miracles** of **Christ** were recorded, that the world could not contain the books that would be required (**John 21:25**). What a blessing, when we can identify with these **marvelous miracles of Christ!** Such should fill us with **faith, courage, conviction, humility, thankfulness,** and **praise!** Keep in mind; that the **miracles** performed by **Christ** during His earthly ministry brought personal **responsibility**, and **accountability** (**Matthew 11:20; John 15:24**), and even the reading and hearing of such makes one **responsible** and **accountable!**
