

“THE BELIEVERS SWORD”
(How Jesus healed the ear that Peter cut off)
Luke 22:39-53

“And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear and healed him.” (Luke 22:50, 51)

“Put your sword away Peter; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”
(Matthew 26:52)

Introduction

1. This is the last miracle Jesus performs before His death.
2. It follows a season of prayer in Gethsemane where Jesus’ disciples fall asleep in prayer.
3. Jesus surrendered His will in prayer. (Luke 22:42)
4. Jesus finds support in prayer. (v. 43)
5. Jesus teaches us the power of God in prayer. (v. 46)

(Then it suddenly happens)

1. Jesus is met by a mob with swords and clubs.
2. Judas kisses Jesus to signal, “He’s the one.”
3. The disciples ask Jesus, “*Lord, shall we smite with the sword?*” (v. 49)
4. And before Jesus can even answer the question, Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus and is rebuked by Jesus:

“Put your sword away Peter; for all who take the sword shall perish with the sword.”
(Matthew 26:52)

Fact: Jesus could have called 72,000 angels to His rescue.

Fact: Jesus didn’t have to surrender to the bitter cup.

Fact: Jesus didn’t have to allow Judas to betray Him.

Fact: Jesus didn’t have to go with the arresting soldiers.

Fact: Jesus didn’t have to heal the servant Malchus.

(But Jesus...)

1. Maintained His calmness, dignity and focus towards the cross.
2. Refused to exercise His rights to relieve himself from personal injustice.

(Questions with answers)

1. Why did Jesus warn His disciples to “watch and pray” in the garden?
2. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter for using his sword in the garden?
3. Why did Jesus heal the severed ear of an enemy arrester?
4. How does this word affect the way we live today?

I. The Sleeping Test (of the Disciples) Luke 22:39-46

“And when He rose up from prayer, and was come to His disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.” (Luke 22:45)

“And said unto them, why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.” (v. 46)

Matthew records: *“They slept for their eyes were heavy.” (26:43)*

Luke records: *“They were sleeping for sorrow.”*

And Jesus said...

“Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.”

Question: What does it mean to “**watch**”?

Answer: It means to “be on guard and stand ready.”

Question: What does it mean to “**pray**”?

Answer: It means to “seek the aid and help of God.”

Question: What does it mean, “**Lest you enter into temptation**”?

Answer: It means “lest we in the hour of trial and testing fail to stand true.”

Jesus helps us here

1. He recognized the weaknesses of us all.
2. He recognized the ability of us all to be weakened when tried by fire.

Jesus reveals to us:

“The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

(Or)

1. Our minds may be ready to bear the crosses and trials of life,
2. But the flesh (or our natural feelings) can weaken and fail us when trial comes upon us. (Repeat)

(In other words)

- ◆ If we seek strength from on high, our inner man will **be prepared** when the cross comes our way.
- ◆ If we seek strength from on high, we will **be equipped** to meet all the demands of life.
- ◆ If we seek strength from on high, Jesus **will prove to be** more than sufficient
- ◆ If we seek strength from on high, God will give us **faith and favor** when mountains seem impossible.

“I sought the Lord and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4)

II, The Sword Test (of Peter) (Luke 22:47-50)

“And Peter smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.” (v. 50)

Peter was indignant

Fact: Judas secretly leads the soldiers and civilians to the rendezvous place.

Fact: Judas then kisses Jesus and sells his soul for 30 pieces of silver.

Fact: Jesus then permits His enemies to lay hold of Him and arrest Him.

(And then it happens)

- Spurred by intense emotions, Peter draws his sword and begins slashing about.
- Excited and hasty, Peter forgets that it's only he and ten others against a multitude of Roman arresters.
- Peter (in haste) cuts off Malchus' ear and receives a stern rebuke from Jesus.
- ***“Put your sword away Peter; for all who take the sword will perish with the sword.”*** (Matthew 26:52)

Brother Bartholomew has often said:

1. “No provocation ever justifies an unchristian response.”
2. “Learn to practice the principle of delayed response.”
3. “If you have a short fuse, you can be sure that someone will light it.”
4. “Many exhibit a hot head and a cold heart, in times when God desires us to possess a hot heart and a cool head.”
5. “No carnal means ever solved a spiritual problem.”

Question: Why did Peter hastily slash off the servant's ear?

Question: Why did Peter use carnal means as Jesus was approaching the cross?

Question: What is it that can get us into trouble if we fail beforehand in “the garden of prayer”?

Four Flesh Tendencies

1. Peter was impatient (which means)

“Showing annoyance because of delays; not willing to wait for something to happen.”

- Peter asked, “*Lord, shall we smite with the sword?*” (v. 49)
- Peter never waited for an answer from Jesus.
- Peter simply spoke and sliced with a hurried spirit.

Question: Are you annoyed because of a delay in your life?

Question: Are you waiting for something to happen?

Question: Are you waiting for a job, a spouse, a prodigal child, an answer to specific prayers?

2. Peter was impulsive(which means)

“A sudden inclination without conscious thought; moving without thinking carefully first.”

- Peter wasn't thinking about the multitude behind the servant he injured.
- Peter's unholy zeal caused him to leap before he looked.

3. Peter was impetuous (which means)

“Moving with force or violence; acting furiously, rash, rushing”

- Peter is fighting flesh with flesh.
- Peter is trying to accomplish something the wrong way.
- Peter is losing sight of the whole plan of God.

4. Peter was imprudent (which means)

“Acting without thought of the consequences; lacking in judgment or caution.”

- Peter never paused to think of the consequences had he killed the servant.
- Peter never thought how his one act could have cost the lives of the other 10 disciples.
- Peter never looked beyond his own personal agenda.

The Lord's Rebuke
"Put your sword away Peter"
Why?

(Because "*They who take the sword will perish by the sword.*")
(Which means)

1. Those who engage in carnal warfare will perish by the very means they use.
2. You do not win victories for Jesus with swords; you win them with spiritual weapons.
3. You do not win battles for God by resisting and fighting the cross, but by taking up the cross without complaint.
4. You never advance the kingdom of God by fleshly words, fleshly deeds, fleshly schemes, fleshly plans, fleshly attacks or fleshly efforts.

Victory is won Jesus' way

1. He prayed in the garden while others were sleeping,
2. He surrendered his rights to God in accepting the bitter cup of judgment for our sin.
3. He submitted to the Father's will even when it went against the grain of his own feelings and thinking.
4. He won the war at his arrest, by winning first in the secret place of prayer and submission.

Seven Flesh Constrainers

1. "*He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly*" (Proverbs 14:17)
2. "*He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*" (14:29)
3. "*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*" (16:32)
4. "*Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise, and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*" (17:28)
5. "*The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*" (19:11)
6. "*Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord and he shall save thee.*" (20,22)
7. "*Say not I will do so to him as he hath done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.*" (24:29)

III. The Soothing Test (of Jesus) (Luke 22:51)

"And he (Jesus) touched his ear, and healed him." (v. 51)

Fact: This is an extra ordinary display of grace!

Fact: This is an illustration of how to respond!

Fact: This is a revelation of the heart of Jesus!

Question: Why did Jesus heal Malchus' ear?

Four Reasons

1. To save Peter and the other 10 from being killed for Peter's rash blunder with the sword.
2. To touch Malchus and lead him into a relationship with the one who could save him.
3. To teach you and me how to bear the cross and not attempt to fight flesh with flesh.
4. To reveal to us the two opposites (Peter and Jesus).

Jesus Healed Malchus...

1. To reveal His **attitude** (of forgiveness) toward an enemy (an attitude than can keep no score of wrongdoing).
2. To reveal His **ability** (of power) to heal you from what someone else may have done to you.
3. To reveal His **altitude** (of spirit) towards the cross, which is a willingness to deny himself and please the father without complaint.

The Tale Of Two Opposites

1. **There is Peter:** who cuts off the ear with an unholy zeal.
Question: Have you cut off any ears lately?
Question: Have you wielded any tongue lashings or cutting remarks?
Question: Have you hastily or angrily cut anyone instead of responding like Jesus?

It's been well said...

"How busy we keep the Lord putting on ears, that we in our fleshly zeal cut off."

2. **There is Jesus:** who heals what someone else has severed in a hasty outburst.
Question: Has anybody cut off **your** ear lately?
Question: Has anyone severed **you**?
Question: Have **you** been betrayed by a loved one?
Question: Are **you** bleeding from a wound by another?
Question: Do you need Jesus to pick up the ear, stop the bleeding and place His hand upon **you**?

You may feel like undisciplined Peter or undeserving Malchus,

**But Amazing Grace...touched them both!
 rescued them both!
 restored them both!
 healed them both!!!**

.. Amen
 Bill Kirk