

# The Miracles of Jesus

## Lesson Thirty-Eight

### Healing the Ear of Malchus

Text: Luke 22:47-51

#### Introduction:

1. Following His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus cleansed the Temple, preached the Gospel, and cursed an unfruitful fig tree.
2. In His final days on Earth, Jesus faced many challenges – from the Jewish leaders, Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and lawyers (Matthew 21:23 – 23:39; Mark 11:27 – 12:44; Luke 20:1-47).
3. He faced the challenge of foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24 – 25; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-36).
4. He faced the challenge of betrayal by one of the twelve (Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6).
5. As they partook of the Passover meal, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper and washed the feet of His disciples (Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; John 13).
6. After a final discourse to His apostles (John 14 – 17), Jesus and the twelve journeyed to the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1).
7. After praying to the Father, Jesus was betrayed, arrested and forsaken (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12).

#### I. The Miracle

- A. First, consider the miracle of inspiration.
  1. Matthew and Mark tell us that “one of them” with Jesus cut off the ear of “a servant of the high priest” (Matthew 26:51; Mark 14:47).
  2. John adds that it was Simon Peter who struck and that the servant’s name was Malchus (John 18:10-11).
  3. John and Luke both record that it was the right ear that was injured.
  4. However, only Luke records the miracle performed by Jesus in restoring this man’s severed ear.
  5. These are not contradictions, but supplementation (cf. Psalm 119:160 – “*The sum of thy word is truth...*” [ASV]).
- B. Consider the uniqueness of this miracle.
  1. It is the only healing of a wound caused by violence.
  2. It is the only recorded restoration of a severed member of one’s body.
- C. Consider the power of this miracle – to restore a missing body part!
- D. Consider the compassion of this miracle.
  1. Jesus performed this good work upon one who was carrying out an illegal arrest against Him.

2. Jesus said, “Suffer ye thus far” – literally, permit or allow.
  - a. If this was said to the disciples, it meant for them to allow Him to be arrested and to cease fighting.
  - b. If this was said to the soldier, it meant for them to allow Him to heal Malchus before He was arrested.
3. Jesus touched his ear – not with a fist in anger or retaliation, but with gentleness in love and compassion.

## II. The Manifestation

- A. Even in His hour of agony and in the shadow of the cross, Jesus proved His power as the Son of God (cf. John 18:4-6).
- B. He also demonstrated great love for all men – even His enemies.

## III. The Message

- A. The disciples were willing to fight and die for Jesus, but they were not will to live for Him!
  1. Jesus had told them they would need swords for protection as they went forth preaching the Gospel (Luke 22:35-38).
  2. However, He did not mean that they were to fight to overthrow God’s plan for man’s salvation – Jesus’ death upon the cross.
  3. Also, He did not intend for them to force obedience to the Gospel by the threat of the sword.
- B. Jesus told Peter to put away his sword (Matthew 26:52), for His kingdom is spiritual.
- C. Jesus could have avoided the cross by calling legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).
- D. Jesus set an example for all to follow.
  1. He did not retaliate (1 Peter 2:21-23; cf. Matthew 5:39).
  2. He loved His enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27, 35).
  3. He overcame evil with good (Romans 12:21).
- E. How could the soldiers witness such a miracle and still unlawfully arrest Jesus?