

## Luke 22:50-51

*And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.*

Today's verse is when Jesus was arrested in the garden, and as Jesus was being arrested, Peter tried to defend Jesus, by cutting off the ear of the servant of the high priest. John even goes into such detail that he also gives us this servant's name, which is Malchus.

† **John 18:10** *Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

But Luke, the Physician tells us something else that a doctor would observe, which is that: **Jesus, "touched his ear and healed him."** Sure others saw this too, but Luke, as was his occupation to heal people, made note of it in his gospel.

So, Peter, in trying to defend Jesus, ended up hurting someone else.

But Jesus in His Love, grace and mercy, picked up that hurt (his ear) and healed Malchus, and that's one reason I believe Luke tells us about the healing that Jesus did in his gospel, because he wanted to show us that yes, we can try and defend the gospel, but are we sometimes hurting others when we do, by becoming overbearing and accusing, even going as far as belittling others to get our point across?

Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, which if you think about it, would be an attack with words spoken, that others hear with their ears. The old saying of "*Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me*", are the farthest thing from the truth. Because words do hurt and cut deeper than any physical hurt. We even hear of kids committing suicide because of what others say about them or to them. Social media was designed to be a way to keep up with your family and friends, but it has turned into Social Bashing, and Social Accusing, and Social Hatred.

Even Luke, the physician, reminds us of how we can reach others, not by hurting them, but by helping them heal of the wounds that others have brought upon them with hurting words. Maybe they were hurt by someone in the church (Like Peter hurt Malchus) or maybe it was someone in their distant or even current past that has hurt and scarred him or her. Maybe it was something they read or saw about themselves on Social Media, even if it wasn't against them personally, but some do take it personally like it was directed at them.

We have to look at ourselves and ask that tough question of, "*Do we sometimes act like Peter, hurting others in the name of religion or the gospel? Or are we like Jesus healing others who are already hurting because they were hurt by someone, possibly even someone in the church?*"

We have a choice, to either pour salt into those wounds that are hurting, or to help heal those hurts like Jesus does.

- † **Ephesians 6:18 (MSG)** *In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.*
- † **James 5:16 (KJV)** *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
- † **2 Corinthians 12:19 (NLT2)** *Perhaps you think we're saying these things just to defend ourselves. No, we tell you this as Christ's servants, and with God as our witness. Everything we do, dear friends, is to strengthen you.*