

# The Chief Priest's Servant

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*March 8 Read: Matthew 26:47-56 Jonathan VanDyke*

It was strangely calm and cold that night heading up to the Mount of Olives. I strapped up all my gear and my favorite club. I had finally found the right one that fit perfectly in my hand. I was ready to lock and load baby. We stormed up the mountain slopes, laughing, taunting, shouting. Judas led the way. He had been following Jesus until he came to his senses, until he realized how crazy Jesus was. We stormed into the garden, and there was Jesus. He came out to meet us, to challenge us! But it was so strange; Judas went right up to him and kissed him on the cheek. I thought he'd smack his cheek. That was odd.

I had never met Jesus before, I expected to see a crazy cross-eyed lunatic but he was calm, he was kind. I saw him, and all was calm...

Then it happened, one from Jesus' group lunged at me in rage and struck me with his sword, he just came out of nowhere. I should have been ready, but it happened so fast. That guy cut my ear off! The pain was excruciating. I screamed and lunged back at the man and then Jesus shouted "NO MORE OF THIS!" We all stopped. I collapsed under the pain and Jesus knelt before me. He picked up my tattered, bloodied ear off the dusty ground, gently wiped it off and raised it back up to my head. Instantly there was no pain. He looked at me with kindness, with forgiveness in his eyes. Without saying a word he showed me my ignorance.

I did not know what I was doing.

There was something different about this man.

***Prayer: Let us not only be surprised by the cruelty you endured, Lord Jesus. Startle us on this road of suffering with your kindness and your forgiveness. AMEN***

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