

The Guy With His Ear Cut Off

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Read: Luke 22: 47-53

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In the midst of the “Gethsemane posse” is a man named Malchus. He is known to most of us as the guy who gets his ear cut off. I have often wondered why he enters into the story of Jesus arrest the way he does. Is it a snippet of interesting folklore like the random guy who runs through the garden naked in Mark’s account of the arrest?

Jesus used this moment as a final opportunity to remind his disciples what he was doing here on earth. Though we would not blame Peter for wanting to protect his friend and teacher, his actions represent the destruction and violence that Jesus opposed when he walked among us. When Jesus restores this man’s ear it should remind us that this was Jesus’ reason for going to the cross. The physical violence against Malchus foreshadows the violence Christ endured days later on our behalf in order to restore his creation.

Whatever became of Malchus, a servant of the high priest? Did he at the moment of healing recognize the face of the messiah? Did he go through life wondering exactly who this guy really was, while rubbing the strange scar behind his ear? Did he take part in giving false evidence against Jesus for a few bucks?

What about you? Do you recognize the Messiah? Do you wonder who he is, while noticing all that he has already restored to you? Or are you working against him?

Prayer: God you sent your Son. We are thankful. You gave us your story, a message of redemption, forgiveness and grace. You restore us like you restored Malchus. With our restored ears help us to hear your call to repentance, salvation and obedience. AMEN.
