

# John 18:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

## Analysis

**One of the officers struck Jesus with the palm of his hand**—The Greek ράπισμα (rhipisma) can mean a slap or strike with a rod. This unprovoked assault for **Answerest thou the high priest so?** (οὗτως ἀποκρίνῃ τῷ ἀρχιερεῖ, houtōs apokrinē tō archierei) reveals the sham trial's brutality.

Isaiah 50:6 prophesied Messiah would give His back to smiters and not hide His face from shame. This violence fulfills prophecy while exposing judicial corruption—legitimate courts don't permit guards to assault defendants for respectful responses. The officer's rage betrays awareness that Jesus's logic was unassailable, requiring force rather than refutation.

## Historical Context

Striking a defendant was illegal under Jewish law unless after conviction. This premature violence proves the proceeding's illegitimacy. Similarly, Roman law forbade beating unconvicted citizens—yet Jesus faced repeated assaults (Matthew 26:67; 27:30) from both Jewish and Roman authorities.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's calm legal defense, met with violence, expose the difference between power and authority?
2. What does this officer's reaction reveal about how truth often provokes hostility when it threatens institutional control?
3. When truth-telling brings punishment rather than dialogue, how can you maintain Jesus's courage without responding in kind?

## Interlinear Text

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ταῦτα	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	εἰπών	εἶς	τῶν	ὑπηρετῶν	παρεστηκὼς
thus	And	G846	saying	one	G3588	of the officers	which stood by
G5023	G1161		G2036	G1520		G5257	G3936
ἔδωκεν	ράπισμα	τῷ	Ἰησοῦ	εἰπών	Οὔτως	ἀποκρίνῃ	τῷ
G1325	struck	G3588	Jesus	saying	so	Answerest thou	G3588
	G4475		G2424	G2036	G3779		G611
ἀρχιερεῖ							
the high priest							
G749							

ἀρχιερεῖ  
the high priest