

Luke 22:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Analysis

And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him. Jesus' final miracle before the cross is healing an enemy—the only Gospel miracle performed for someone opposing Him. *Eate heōs toutou* (ἐᾶτε ἕως τούτου, 'permit until this') can mean 'stop, no more of this' (forbidding further violence) or 'permit this [arrest] to proceed.' Both meanings apply: Jesus forbids resistance and submits to His captors. The phrase *hapsamenos tou ōtiou iasato auton* (ἁψάμενος τοῦ ὠτίου ἰάσατο αὐτόν, 'touching the ear, he healed him') shows Jesus exercising divine power even as He surrenders to arrest.

This miracle demonstrates Christ's character: He heals while being betrayed, shows mercy to enemies, and undoes His disciples' damage. It fulfills His teaching to 'love your enemies' (Luke 6:27-28) and 'bless them that curse you.' The irony is profound—Jesus is arrested for claiming to be God, and immediately proves His deity by miraculous healing. Yet the arrest continues, showing how sin blinds: Malchus experiences Christ's power but still assists His enemies.

Historical Context

This healing is unique to Luke's Gospel, written by a physician (Colossians 4:14) who would naturally note medical details. That no Gospel suggests Malchus converted demonstrates the hardness possible even after experiencing miracles. The healing had practical benefit—had Jesus allowed the injury to stand, Peter could have faced assault charges before Roman authorities. Christ's healing thus

protected His disciple even while rebuking him. This was likely Jesus' last public miracle before the resurrection.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus heal someone who came to arrest Him? What does this reveal about grace?
2. How should Christians respond when their 'defense' of Christ causes damage?
3. What does Malchus' apparent non-conversion teach about the limits of miracles in producing faith?

Interlinear Text

ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	Ἐἴτε	ἕως	τούτου·
answered	And	G3588	Jesus	and said	Suffer ye	far	thus
G611	G1161		G2424	G2036	G1439	G2193	G5127
καὶ	ἅψάμενος	τοῦ	ὠτίου	αὐτόν	ἰάσατο	αὐτόν	
And	he touched	G3588	ear	him	and healed	him	
G2532	G680		G5621	G846	G2390	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:21 (Parallel theme): Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

2 Corinthians 10:1 (Parallel theme): Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

John 17:12 (Parallel theme): While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

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