

# Mark 14:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

## Analysis

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**And one of them that stood by drew a sword**—John 18:10 identifies this as Peter wielding a μάχαιρα (machaira, a short sword or large knife). **And smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear**—the violent verb ἀφαίρεω (aphaireō, "cut off, remove") describes the blow that removed Malchus's ear (John 18:10). Peter's action reveals misguided zeal attempting to defend Christ through fleshly means.

The irony cuts deep: Peter defends the One who needs no defense, employs violence for the Prince of Peace, draws a sword for Him who will rebuke "all they that take the sword" (Matthew 26:52). Luke 22:51 records Jesus healing the ear, demonstrating grace toward enemy and correction of disciple in single act. Peter's sword-swing shows how religious zeal divorced from understanding of God's ways produces harmful action masquerading as faithfulness.

## Historical Context

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Carrying swords violated Roman law for Jews, but the disciples apparently had two (Luke 22:38). Malchus, as the high priest's servant, represented establishment power. That Peter attacked a servant rather than a soldier suggests either poor aim, divine providence, or instinctive targeting of the Jewish authority figure rather than Roman force.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What does Peter's violent defense of Jesus teach about the danger of carnal methods for spiritual purposes?
2. How does Jesus' healing of Malchus's ear demonstrate that the kingdom advances through grace, not force?
3. In what areas might you be tempted to "draw a sword" for Jesus rather than trusting His sovereign purposes and methods?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰς δέ τις τῶν παρεστηκότων σπασάμενος τὴν  
of them And one G3588 that stood by drew G3588  
G1520 G1161 G5100 G3936 G4685

μάχαιραν ἔπαισεν τὸν δοῦλον τοῦ ἀρχιερέως καὶ  
a sword and smote G3588 a servant G3588 of the high priest and  
G3162 G3817 G1401 G749 G2532

ἀφεῖλεν αὐτοῦ τὸ ὡτίον  
cut off his G3588 ear G5621

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