

The Hands of the Passion

SERMON TEXT: John 18:4-11 (See also Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-51, Luke 22:47-53)

Vs. 4 – Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, Who is it you want?

Vs. 5 – Jesus of Nazareth, they replied. I AM HE,’ Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.”

Vs. 6 – When Jesus said, I AM HE, they drew back and fell to the ground.

Vs. 7 – Again He asked them, Who is it you want? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

Vs. 8 – I told you that I AM HE, Jesus answered. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.

Vs. 9 – This happened so that the words He had spoken would be fulfilled: I have not lost one of those you gave me.

Vs. 10 – Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

Vs. 11 – Jesus commanded Peter, Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?

GREETING: To Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father – to Him be glory and power forever and ever!

As we continue with the Sermon Series for this Lent Season entitled “*The Hands of the Passion*”, we are making our way to the cross as we see Jesus Who spreads out His hands upon the Cross of Calvary (John 19:17-18) for the sin of the World (Heb. 10:10, I Tim. 2:5-6, I John 2:1-2), and then shows those same nail pierce hands three days later to His disciples behind the locked doors as Jesus declared to them “*Peace be With You.*” (John 20:19-27)

This evening we see the hands of the disciple – Peter.

We see that Peter carries a sword. We see that Peter cuts off the right ear of a man by the name of Malchus, the servant of the High Priest

Either Peter was a remarkable swords man, that he was able to cut off the right ear of Malchus the servant of the High Priest, or Peter was a bad aim as Peter missed cutting off the head of Malchus.

After Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, we hear Jesus as He rebukes Peter:

John 18:11 – Jesus commanded Peter, Put your sword away!

Matthew 26:52 “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “**for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.**”

- As Christians we dare not turn to violence to try to promote Christianity or our agendas.

We then see Jesus as He used His Hand of compassion to heal the ear of Malchus.

Luke 22: 51 - Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed him.

We see that Jesus, Who is God, - equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit - is in control as He continues to say to those disciples who were with Him – Peter, James & John:

Matthew 26:53 “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than **twelve legions of angels?** 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

As we picture in our mind this scene of the crowd of armed men who had come to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, we see Peter use his hands to strike with his sword, we see Jesus heal the man by a simple touch of the hand, we then take a look at Malchus.

As soon as his ear is cut off we can picture him quickly grasping the side of his head with his hand, where his ear once was. Was his ear lying on the ground, was his ear hanging there by a few pieces of flesh. As Malchus grabs the side of his head, there is blood, and the next thing he knows, is that Jesus touches his ear and Malchus is healed.

What type of thoughts went through the mind and heart of Malchus.

He had experienced firsthand the loving compassion of his Savior – Jesus.

Did Malchus come to faith in Jesus? Will we see Malchus in heaven? We will need to wait, as Malchus is not mentioned any other place in Scripture.

Back to Peter. What was Peter thinking? Here was a mob of armed men, and it is only he and James & John. Did Peter think that he was going to be able to defeat this armed mob?

Fortunately again, Jesus is in control of the situation. The Words of Jesus are all powerful.

Vs. 8 – **I told you that I AM HE, Jesus answered. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.**

Peter – James & John lived to tell the World what they had seen.

As we already noted, Jesus had at His disposal more than 12 Legions of angels.

Jesus needed to allow this mob of armed men to arrest HIM, so that He could fulfill the needed sacrifice on the cross of Calvary for the sin of the World. Jesus went voluntarily, of His own will and accord.

But those same 12 Legions of Angels were there as needed to protect Peter, James & John. (A Legion is generally 6,000. $6,000 \times 12 = 72,000$ angels!!!)

When this band of armed men came to arrest Jesus, they approached, as Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Then Jesus demonstrated His control once again:

Vs. 4 – **Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, Who is it you want?**

Vs. 5 – Jesus of Nazareth, they replied. I AM HE,' Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.” Vs. 6 – When Jesus said, I AM HE, they drew back and fell to the ground.

This entire group of armed men, fell to the ground as Jesus said: “I AM HE”
They did not arrest Jesus by their great might.

We see that Jesus did not need the help of Peter.

Peter drew the sword because he thought that he was going to help the situation.

How often have we not also thought that we needed to HELP God, to HELP Jesus?

May we not trust in our OWN hands, but let us trust in the Loving Hands of Jesus which He used as He healed Malchus, and as Jesus spread His hands on the cross of Calvary for the Sin of the World. AMEN

THEME: Hands of Misguided Zeal. (Peter)