



## The Last Physical Healing

***“Stop! No more of this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him.”***—  
Jesus, Luke 22:51, nasb

Do you know when and where the last physical healing of Jesus’ earthly ministry took place?

It happened on the night before Good Friday. It was just before that kangaroo court assembled to judge the ultimate Judge, yes, before that scene with all that uber-bogus jurisprudence in Jerusalem. It was the day before the sinless Son of God walked up the hill to Calvary with a cross on His back for the darkest day in all of history.

Can you imagine what shock it must have been for the disciples to see how hypocrite-Judas, their “partner in ministry” would rather kiss than cleave!

How baffled they must have felt in all the confusion and mayhem of that night. What a let down for “the “God-squad” who must have felt totally outraged and wanted to throw down.. take decisive action ..perhaps even engage in some bloody battle to make things return to normal!

You remember the old Easter story and how it ended up.

Yes, these guys were ready to fight and take out some swords to defend their Christ to the death! Some were kind of scared I’m sure, but still they wanted to take any Roman or religious opposition on!

Of course there were probably some followers present that seemed more tentative than others, but let me tell you, Pete was not one of them. He’d show his fierce loyalty ..and why not feel like getting’ even here? It was far beyond insult to Pete. What had Jesus ever done wrong?

Now you know how Pete had always been kind of impulsive by nature and he wouldn’t just sit around twiddling his thumbs like some school girl might do. So Pete took a strong swipe instead .. an unplanned reckless slice with a sharp blade. *“Let me at em; I’ll tear em apart!”* was goin’ in his mind!

The Word says, ***“When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, ‘Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!’ And one of them***

***slashed at the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'Don't resist anymore' (Lk. 22:49-51, nlt).***

Now to me, cuttin' off the man's right ear clearly shows us that reckless Pete was goin' for his head even though a downwards swipe indicates the fisherman was a novice in swordsmanship. We can't be sure about all the details, but who in their right mind goes for a mere ear-lop when so much is at stake?

Perhaps an angel was there to deflect Pete's untamed blade a bit, or maybe this ex-fisher-turned-preacher.. this would-be righteous sort of choir boy type was out of practice with his dagger ..or maybe even temporarily out of his mind. Face it, this was not rational behavior. Those who take up a sword to kill, often die by a sword.

Simon Peter certainly didn't think that he would be stopped by His fearless Messianic Leader in his own noble effort of defense. That Bible verse from James (1:20, nkjv) ***"For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God"*** had not yet been written, but after three years of working so closely Christ, you'd kinda think that Pete would have known better by now. Think about it, why would Pete even go for it in the first place if he already knew better in his grey matter between his ears? We all typically only go where we've already first been in our own minds. I guess he and the others had a habit of forgetting gobs of important stuff. How often in the past had Pete pre-thunk before this arrest occurred?

Anyways, all these violent heathen-dudes appeared over the hill and up in their faces so quickly with swords and clubs out as if to take down some hardened criminal and gang (Mk. 14:48), it was all way too much and beyond insulting! But Jesus, why have us get two swords earlier, and then go and stop us when we actually use them to defend You (Lk. 22:36)?

The Jesus-team just didn't get it.

And things were playing out so rapidly—the darkest darkness was already surrounding the situation! It certainly is clear that Malchus, the servant of the high priest, wasn't at all expecting to lose his right ear at the hand of this wild-eye Jesus Freak that evening. What do you think?

Pete was a man of action though—I like him a lot! Too many of us Jesus Freaks are too passive, lazy, timid and boring, when our God isn't! And who among us would justifiably feel like commending Simon for his non-sissy valiant vigilante-like act! That's probably how I would have handed things in disarray.. in such a mixed up situation gone horribly south and beyond bad, wouldn't you?

But thank God the smarter Head won out. Christ let it be known that He didn't approve of this violent retaliatory action at all and He basically told His bud, Pete, to quickly sheathe that blood-dripping sword. We don't know if Pete carried that carving knife in some Franciscan-like rope around his waist or in a real leather sheath on his belt, but it was a good thing that he started to obey and no more ears flew in the air!

Man, why can't Pete more consistently get it right? So many times had come and gone where He just couldn't seem to nail it spiritually.. no matter how hard he tried. Foot in

mouth, hand on weapon, somebody please help him quit getting out of control! Isn't self-control supposed to be a fruit of the Spirit? Man, Pete needed to be baptized in the Spirit, that change him into a more rock-like personality.

But he was smugly boasting when He should have been carefully listening to the Lord. He was soundly snoozing when he should have been praying to the Lord. And here we see Pete fighting in the flesh when he should have been surrendering in the Spirit.

When things get intense in your life, what do you do? Do you fly off the handle? How do you deal with it all? Who do you run to for help? Do you respond in the Spirit, or do you—just like Peter—react in heated anger ..and then later regret it?

Do you think rightly ..in a constructive manner or do you abandon proper thinking and go with the fickle feeling of the moment in a destructive manner? Pete was a true reactionary here; emo to the max, a man all worked up, temper flaring again red hot—a loose cannon firing not over the bow, but into it! He actually blew it on several levels when he attacked Mister Malchus.

But hey, we'll go easy on him today, because he'll really feel bad when the cock begins to crow, besides we all can blow it and should never feel we are above doing that kind of cutting stuff. Yup, but for the grace of God I would probably go do many things far worse! That's why we all must never be self-confident or SELF-reliant like Pete! We must depend on God's power for victory over sin, Satan, the world, various temptations and the flesh. We are to crucify the fleshly nature when it wants to do what it wants to do!

I love this story for what we can gain from it. Here's the take-away: Pete was focused on the wrong enemy and he was fighting according to his unloving flesh when he should have been praying according to God's loving Spirit! Yup, he was using the wrong weaponry, trusting in his own judgment instead of in God's!

Having two swords was enough and they indeed could be put to good use, but this wasn't the place or the time.

News flash: Our real enemies who can oppose us the most are not at all made of flesh and blood; the type with skin on. And they cannot be defeated, harmed or stopped with the typical weapons commonly used in human warfare. We must discern and recognize the real enemy behind the circumstances when there is one or more there, and we must pull out the big guns ..if you will. We must fight like men.. on our knees!

The Bible says, ***“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”*** (2 Cor. 10:3-5, nkjv).

What are the big guns, you might ask. Well boldly preaching the Gospel, worshipping the Lord, practically applying God's word with consistency, and praying in faith are some of our most powerful weapons. Our arsenal literally makes the devil nervous when we live the life, but not until we use them. Too often they are not used at all and the Church of

Jesus does not advance. Prayerlessness, unbelief, carnality, laziness, worldly TV and puter distractions along with other ones—these things impede our progress!

It's very interesting to me that the last miracle that Jesus performed during His earthly ministry was done while He was hanging on the cross. It was when He saved one of the two repentant criminals. Born again on a tree next to two other crosses and no time for water baptism or testimony.. was how it went for him.

But just prior to all that blood-stained gruesomeness, Jesus performed his last physical healing on a man that was not at all deserving of such a healing.

In the midst of that frenzied arrest of Christ it played out. Nothing huge, nothing up in lights, nothing hyper-flashy about this one at all. Jesus was never about capitalizing on, or making a sensational show of His healing power. It was the religious leaders who were the ones into doing good deeds merely for others to see! No, it happened quietly with no fanfare at all. I wonder if the recipient even went home to tell his wife about what happened. People would think he was crazy.

But this final healing revealed Christ's true bigness; His deeply compassionate heart in a way like no other had before. Jesus basically touched and healed the man. Did He slap that bloody ear now with dirt stuck to it back on to his head? It doesn't appear that way. It appears as if Christ simply touched what was left of the hole or lobe if it was still attached under Malchus' hair, and made a new ear appear (Lk. 22:51). Perhaps his comrades even returned that night with the dirty one picked up off the ground as their souvenir? That would be weird huh. We can't know for sure.

But this compliant servant of the high priest who was all caught up in whacked-group-think was one of those sinners who came out to arrest Christ for no valid reason at all. How blind can people be? It boggles my mind how mobs will refuse to think for themselves and can horrendously damage others. Jesus never sinned ever, but on the contrary constantly helped irreligious people like him! Doctor Luke (22:51) states, "**And He [Jesus] touched his ear and healed him**" (nkjv).

If ever there was a person who did not "deserve" such a healing touch, it was this man, Malchus. Was he the one leading the charge against Jesus? Was he vocal, brash, arrogant—the most outspoken fool who drew Pete's attention to himself? Dunno, but we do know that Jesus felt empathy and concern for him.

Was he afterwards grateful to God? Hey, not that we can see. I suppose Malchus just wanted to stay employed. Too many people these days put "job security ahead of obeying God" and others (real Christians) foolishly witness verbally on the job at the wrong time, in the wrong way.

But Christ who was used to a ministry to the masses and was used to seeing the chaos of desperate crowds.. in the presence of this brutal lynch mob wasn't trying something new here—he wasn't thinking about Himself. No, Jesus could have permanently stopped the arrest completely, but he simply wanted to take the time to meet the need of a hurting individual who mattered to His Father.

Have you gotten too big in your own eyes to address the needs of an individual, minister? Of course you and I can't always stop to meet every need in every location, but God can use us to meet some needs where He leads us.

How interesting that the last physical healing performed by Christ was made necessary due to the foolish fumbling and blundering of a well-meaning disciple, a would-be-witness who was in the wrong.

You and I know that a lot of so called Church history has sadly been very ugly at times. There has even been some wrong killing done in wars that were fought in Jesus Name. We are not at all proud of all Church history by any means—some is so sad! Of course much of what has been wrongly done in Jesus Name was done by presumptuous religious posers claiming to be real Christians (and perhaps even believing they were real and that this stuff they were doing was in the will of God), but some of the hurtful sins of the past have also been committed by carnal or under-informed Christians as well. That's sad all the more! I hate that!

Jesus has undoubtedly been very busy ever since His own arrest day, healing the afflictions and wounds intentionally and non-intentionally made by blundering inept disciples.

Have you or your dreams been crushed by a cruel Christian.. or by a so called leader with a Bible in his hands? Have you ever felt hopeless or trapped by circumstances around you that were not there due to your own personal decisions? Have the decisions of church leaders full of themselves caused you or your friends much pain or grief?

Let me ask you: What is still dead or hurting in your life? Do you have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying, or do you have dullness of hearing and need Jesus to touch your ear today?

Please know that God is bigger than all the bad choices of those around you. Remember Joseph in the well and sold off to Egypt?

Remember that Jesus can take the blindness and deafness away for good! I'm not saying that you should stay in a spiritually sick or dead church that manipulates and pressures people. Why should any Christian leader tell you what personal convictions you are to have (grey area convictions that are just like his) dealing with non-essential issues? Why should you or I ever do that for other people? The Bible is clear on some things—certain non-negotiable practices and doctrines—and I'm not talking about those. But we all need to allow believers to hear from God and arrive at their own personal convictions alone with Him. It's none of our business! We all need to show great respect to unbelievers and give them the freedom to choose when they are good and ready, not before. Why point the finger at them, why speak down to them, be harsh with them, or try and make them feel bad?

I've never ever met a Christian who said, I came to Christ after a self-righteous believer did a great job of condemning and pushing me. How about you? None of us ever need to be persecuted for being rude, puffed up, holier than thou or offensive—there's enough of an offense in Christ's Gospel and cross alone (1Pet. 2:8, Gal. 5:11, Rom 9:33, 1Cr 10:32, 2 Cor. 6:3).

But I am so glad that Easter is about a living, loving God and Him resurrecting, restoring, healing and saving sinners like me! Aren't you?

*No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.*  
~William Penn

*Christ heals people physically so they will indeed be blessed, but also because He wants to heal them or others spiritually—salvation is still His greatest miracle and we can be apart of that work! ~KvS*

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer; death is strong, but Life is stronger; stronger than the dark, the light; stronger than the wrong, the right... ~Phillips Brooks*

If you have been hurt by mean or cruel Christians, then I sincerely apologize to you as a representative of the Church. I know that is not really good enough, but I want you to know that it wasn't Jesus who was mean to you. So please don't be mad at Him. Purpose to allow God to help you in forgiving whoever it was and never to be like that!

By healing Malchus, Jesus not only reversed and abolished all the harm, he also erased all the proof of Pete's sin so that he wouldn't also be forced before the same poser court of whackos that Jesus would soon stand before.

In fact it was this same Jesus who taught us, ***“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”*** (Matt. 5:44-46).

Kindhearted Jesus said, ***“Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil”*** (Lk. 6:35).

It's spring time; it's Easter time and God still cares and takes time for up-and-outer and down-and-outer individuals—friend and foe! Remember that the first preacher of the His resurrection was an individual—not an apostle or a man, an ex-enemy of righteousness, an ex-demon-possessed woman named, Mary Magdalene, who ran and told Pete the ear slice-er (Jn. 20:10).

*The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell... ~ Matt. 28:5-7*

*Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time. ~Martin Luther*

*And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God has given*

*us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His Name.* ~Rom. 1:4-5, nlt

Perhaps you feel like an individual alone and forgotten by God. Maybe you feel mad at God. If you have suffered some spiritual abuse or church-hurt before, then please come to Jesus today so that He can heal and restore you. He is *not like* those religious ones who did that! God can restore you by His grave-emptying power! Besides, don't you want to one day be resurrected like He was?

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...* ~ Phil. 3:10-12, niv

*But from this earth, this grave, this dust, my God shall raise me up, I trust.* ~Walter Raleigh

This Easter, let's purpose to be kindhearted, gracious and bold witnesses who stay focused on the risen Christ! Let's wisely and zealously use the right weapons in the right way and at the right time ..against the real enemies of our souls. We aren't here to maim people; when the Lord wants to use us to heal folks! Come to Christ today if you need His healing touch or His [greatest miracle](#), salvation!

Have a prayer request or more questions? At [fish4souls.org](http://fish4souls.org) click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help you.

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