

LUKE Lesson 57

Jesus Christ; Victorious in the Hour of Darkness (22:47-53)

26 July 2019

Vs 47 A multitude of soldiers arrived to take Jesus into custody. These soldiers have witnessed the miracles that Jesus performed. Some of them even stated, “**Never man spake like this man**” (Jn 7:46). They knew He was innocent. But they also knew He was powerful. He demonstrated this power by knocking them all on their backs with his words (Jn 18:6). But even this demonstration of power did not deter these hard-hearted soldiers.

Vs 48 Judas betrayed the Lord with a kiss. Psalm 55 reveals the Lord’s innermost thoughts and feelings concerning this betrayal by a close friend (See **Psalm 55:1-18**).

Judas’ kiss was a deceitful kiss (see **Prov 27:6**). Ministers often seem to be friendly and loving because their speech is soft and they act like they care. Oftentimes that is just a deceitful act put on with hidden motives. It’s important to judge a man’s words (whether harsh or smooth) by the Bible.

In **Matthew 26:47-50**, we see that Jesus Christ sets the standards of charity, forgiveness, grace, and compassion. He called Judas “friend.” Though Judas may not have counted Jesus a friend, Jesus (who cannot lie) considered Judas to be His friend. It’s also important to remember that Judas was indwelt by Satan (Lk 22:3), the father of lies (Jn 8:44), who, no doubt, drove Judas to deceive the Lord (Acts 5:3).

Lesson: don’t let the actions of other people cause you to react in an unholy manner.

49-50 Jesus’ disciples didn’t have the same level of grace, compassion, and self-control. They were quick to react in violence. They were not completely submissive to the Lord’s will as Jesus was. Peter rushed into the midst of the soldiers and started swinging his sword, cutting off the ear of a man named Malchus (Jn 18:10).

Lesson: we need to be careful how we draw our sword (the word of God) when dealing with people, so that we don’t end up doing more harm than good. Make sure that in your zealotry you’re not laying aside the Lord’s will in an attempt to defend Him.

Vs 51 Jesus had to quickly and forcefully put a stop to the chaos and confusion that would have begun as a result of Peter’s actions. His words were powerful enough to end the battle before it began.

Why did Jesus heal Malchus’ ear? An ordinary man (a sinner by nature, Rom 3:23) would have gladly let the man suffer because he “*deserved it.*” Jesus is not a sinner. His ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8).

He healed the man for two reasons:

1) To protect Peter from prosecution which may have diverted attention from the atonement of Jesus Christ to the trial of Peter.

2) To disprove the false accusations of the religious leaders (Luke 23:5, Jn 19:12). A battle between Jesus' followers and the Roman soldiers would have supported the accusations of Jesus' enemies.

52-53 Jesus told the religious leaders, **“This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”** From this point forward it was Satan's hour. He was free to do his worst to the Lord Jesus Christ (see John 12:20-32). **“This hour”** (Jn 12:27) is not only the crucifixion. It included the trial, the false accusations, the mocking, the spitting, the torture, the cross, and Hell. It is the time that God allotted to Satan to try to destroy the Seed of the Woman, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the end, Jesus came out victorious and Satan was spoiled and ridiculed (Col. 2:15).

Now Jesus draws all men to Himself (Jn 12:32), not just a select few as the Calvinist will tell you.

Isaiah 45:6-7. The Lord said, **“I *am* the LORD, and *there is none else.* ⁷ I form the light, and create darkness...”** Jesus said **“this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”** Only Jesus knows the full extent of the meaning of those words. He knew exactly what He was walking into.

“...I create peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” The Lord takes responsibility for His creation. If He paid the price to make all things right (He punished our sin in Himself), that clears His name.

Now thanks to Jesus' full payment for sin, the only people who will end up in outer darkness are the ones who love darkness rather than light (Jn 3:19).