



Weekly Devotionals: Malchus' Perspective | March 19, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Week 1 of our Easter devotionals! Each week you'll be prompted to read about a character from the events leading up to Jesus' death, consider a few questions, and then engage with a prayer prompt.

This week, you'll be reading about Malchus' encounter with Jesus.

STORY

It's back!

Wait...it's back?

Just a moment ago, my head was throbbing from the pain, but now it's reeling in disbelief. Did Jesus really just give me back my own ear?

For the past few years, all I've heard is how dangerous, how deceitful, how evil this false prophet from Nazareth was. I've never seen my boss, Caiaphas, seething as much as he would when even the name of Jesus was mentioned. This man claimed to be the Son of God, and all I ever heard about him was how he disgraced the law of the Jews and how he had tricked thousands into believing and following him.

Now it was our time to set things right. Along with a few hundred soldiers armed to the teeth and ready for anything, it was the perfect opportunity to silence this "prophet." And of course, of all the people fully armored, I happened to be the one closest to the guy with the little sword, ready to take on the whole garrison. In an instant, I felt the screaming pain in my head as he slashed at me and cut off my ear.

I couldn't hear, let alone focus, on what Jesus said, but I could tell he was angry, and that's when he looked into my eyes with so much compassion I could literally feel it.



Then he reached out, in the middle of the noise and chaos, into the blood flowing where my ear had been just a moment ago, and *touched* me.

It felt like slow motion, but as the pain subsided, I hesitantly lifted my hand to feel what I was afraid I would find. When I felt my ear, right back where it has always been, all I could think was, “Why?” Why would he care so much about me? No one else has ever cared that much.”

Maybe we were wrong about him.

SCRIPTURE

Read **Luke 22:39-53**.

REFLECTION

Welcome to the story of Malchus, a servant of the Jewish high priest Caiaphas. When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter cut off Malchus’ ears and Jesus subsequently restored it. Can you imagine what that must have been like for him – to expect judgment but to receive mercy?

As you ponder this story, prayerfully reflect on the following questions:

- What do you think Malchus would have been thinking about Jesus as he entered the Garden to arrest Jesus?
- What do you think Malchus would have felt after being healed by Jesus?
- In what ways are you needing to experience Jesus’ healing mercy today?



PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, thank you for your mercy! Thank you for your kindness, your grace, and your love. Please help me to remember what you did for your people – and for me – when we were alone and hurting and you stepped in with your healing hand on our lives. Help me to experience your tender touch each and every day. I love you and pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

EXTRA

As you go about your week, take some time to read and reflect on Luke 22:1-23:56. Sit with God in this passage each day. Allow the Scriptures to speak to You. Ask yourself, “Lord, what do you want to show me in this text today – about myself, about You, about Jesus?” Then, listen. After each day has wrapped up, finish in prayer.