

## Message #112

## Luke 22:47-53

Many years ago there was an intro to “Wild World of Sports” that began with the idea there is the “Thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.” The picture that was used to illustrate the agony of defeat was a Yugoslavian ski jumper whose name was Vinko Bogataj. The video used to illustrate the agony of defeat was him sliding down the ski ramp head over heels and flying off the side of the ramp. It looked like a terrible accident that could have killed the jumper. What most viewers never knew is that Vinko chose to fall on purpose rather than finish the jump. As he was beginning to travel down the ramp, he realized that the surface was way too fast and he knew if he completed this jump he would land far beyond the safe sloping area and could be killed. So he intentionally fell and all he ended up with was a headache and broken ankle. What appeared to most people to be a major disaster and failure turned out to be a lifesaving decision.

When we come to this part of the life of Jesus Christ, it appears to most people to be a total disaster and failure. He is surrounded by traitors and religious and political leaders who hate Him and want Him dead. His own men didn’t know what to do. **But as horrific as this episode appears to be, it was all part of the sovereign program of God, designed to save sinners.**

What we see here is quite amazing:

**EVEN THOUGH JESUS CHRIST WAS SURROUNDED BY HATEFUL ENEMIES AND DISLOYAL DISCIPLES, THIS WAS ALL PART OF THE SOVEREIGN PLAN OF GOD, DESIGNED TO SAVE SINNERS.**

What is actually happening here is a life-saving decision. Jesus Christ is intentionally permitting this to happen so He could save sinners like us from our sins.

In this episode you have one disciple who is a traitor. You have the other disciples who are loyal but ignorant. You have religious leaders who are hypocrites. This is one unique episode in the sovereign plan of God. This is not a story about a religious loser, but of a life-giving Savior.

There are seven historical observations we may make concerning this:

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #1** – Judas gives Jesus a hypocritical kiss. **22:47**

Carefully observe here that Judas leads this multitude to Jesus “while He was still speaking.” Jesus had been instructing His disciples on the importance of prayer (22:46). So in the context of teaching on the importance of prayer, this episode occurs and here comes Judas to interrupt. This is important because it is not uncommon for a believer who spends time in the word and prayer to discover that he is immediately confronted with devilish interruptions, some of which may come from those closest to you.

The “crowd” that Judas was leading had been sent by the false religious leadership of Israel and they were armed and dangerous (Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43). In this crowd were chief priests, officers of the Temple and the elders (Luke 22:52). All were following Judas up Mount Olivet to where Jesus was.

Judas was the traitor guide of those who were hateful enemies of Jesus Christ. He was the spy Satan was using to kill Jesus Christ. He was one of the twelve Apostles, but his heart was so evil that he was leading this group to kill Jesus Christ.

**We need to remember that every move of Judas at this point is completely controlled by Satan (Luke 22:3).** Judas is Satan-possessed so we get a real true look here as to how Satan works with a phony, hypocritical disciple. **What Satan specifically causes Judas to do is to try to appear to be very loving, but he is ruthless and evil.**

Take a close look at this. Judas externally kisses the Son of God as if he really cared about Him and loved Him, but he internally hates Him and wants Him dead.

Please learn a very important lesson here. **Physical and external appearances prove nothing.** There will always be Judas-types in the church. People being led of Satan will appear to be loving and pious, but their hearts are evil. They do not love the Lord. They do not love the Word of God. They do not love righteousness and they do not love truth. They are steeped in evil sin and are traitors.

#### **HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #2 – Jesus asks Judas a question. 22:48**

The question Christ asks Judas really sums it all up. “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

A kiss is supposed to be a sign of affection, not a sign of defection. When Jesus asks him this question, He is specifically pointing out the hypocrisy of this that turns this friendship kiss into a devilish curse.

Notice Jesus identifies Himself as “the Son of Man” (literally in Greek “the Son of the Man”). This is the Daniel term that identifies Jesus Christ as the Ancient of Days God/man who will one day rule the world and all people in it (Daniel 7:13-14).

Learn an important lesson about Satanic and demonic activity. People controlled by Satan do all kinds of external things that appear to be good in order to cover their wicked heart. Externals do not equal internals. **Emotional external responses prove nothing.**

Judas had everyone fooled except Jesus Christ. In fact, in John’s account of this, John brings out that Jesus knows “all things” (John 18:4).

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #3** – Jesus’ disciples respond to the situation. **22:49**

Now these disciples had been out-of-step with the whole program of God all through this:

- 1) Instead of listening, they had been discussing (22:23).
- 2) Instead of learning, they had been disputing (22:24).
- 3) Instead of praying, they had been sleeping (22:45-46).

So we may observe that these disciples had basically been doing the wrong things most of the night.

So when they saw this scene unfolding, they wanted to know if they should pull out their sword and strike them down. They had a sense that it was time to destroy these enemies of Christ.

They had totally missed the teaching of Christ concerning this very moment. He had specifically told them just a few hours earlier that He would be a sacrifice poured out for them (Luke 22:19-20). He also specifically told them that one of them would betray Him because He needed to die (Luke 22:21-22). Then He had just told them it was time for that which is written to be fulfilled in Him so that He needed to be numbered with the transgressors (Luke 22:37).

He told them the entire episode “had been determined,” which means everything was carefully controlled by the sovereignty of God.

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #4** – Jesus’ disciple physically reacts to this situation. **22:50**

The Apostle Peter didn’t even question anything, he pulled out his sword and swung it at the servant of the high priest, whose name was Malchus, and he cut off his right ear (John 18:10).

There is something about Peter you must like. He is not afraid to get into battle. He is a good, loyal soldier and warrior and even though he didn’t know the will of God at this moment or the game plan, he took action.

It appears that Peter swung his sword with the goal of taking off his head. But Malchus ducked and the blade whizzed by the right side of the head and took off his right ear.

One thing we do know is that Peter would go on to become a great Apostle and one of the things that made him a great Apostle is he was a good soldier and warrior who was not afraid of a fight or battle.

Now one thing we must want to do here is to make certain that our battles are God’s battles and our fights are God’s fights. Otherwise, we are likely to be doing the wrong thing at the wrong time.

We cannot help but think of that text in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 that says, “There is an appointed time for everything.” “A time to kill and a time to heal. A time for war and a time for peace.”

Wise is the person who can discern the right time to do the right thing. Peter got his signals crossed here.

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #5** – Jesus responds to the reaction of His disciples. **22:51a**

When Peter did this, Jesus said, “Stop, no more of this.” What He means by this is at the present time you do not want to oppose what is happening here because what is happening here is supposed to happen.

In fact, the verb “stop” literally means “let it alone” or “permit it to be” (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 126).

So Jesus is not telling His disciples that they may not need to defend themselves in the future. He is telling them to don’t try to stop this from happening right now. Let what is supposed to happen, actually happen.

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #6** – Jesus performs a healing miracle on Malchus. **22:51b**

After giving His own disciples a command, Jesus gave Malchus a miraculous healing hand. Christ apparently took the ear that had been cut off by Peter and put it back on Malchus and it was completely healed.

Now Luke is a medical doctor and this would have intrigued him. His description is that Jesus “touched his ear and healed him.”

The participle “touch” is aorist middle, which means this is at one point of time when Jesus in and of Himself does this. The participle touch comes from a verb that means to grasp firmly or hold tight to something (*Ibid.*, p. 56). This is a very strong word.

Now the word for “heal” is not the Greek word for “therapy.” This particular Greek word speaks of a complete healing (*Ibid.*, p. 212).

So based on the Greek, we would suggest that Jesus took the ear and tightly put it back on Malchus head and when He took His hand away, it was completely healed.

Now you would have thought that those watching this would have said, this must be the God/Savior/Messiah/King here. No other person can do this. They should have said wait a minute, we better rethink taking Jesus down this mountain as our prisoner.

Before Jesus’ hands were bound, His last act with His hands free was one of mercy. Even when Jesus was Personally going through the worst possible circumstances, He still ministered to others.

Here is the ultimate example of doing good to those who are out to spitefully do evil to you. Jesus healed one of the people who had come out to arrest Him and ultimately kill Him.

One old Anglican minister of the 1800's said, "Christ's cause was served by dying, not killing."

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #7** – Jesus verbally responds to the phony leadership.  
**22:52-53**

Jesus asks the leaders why they came out to get Him, armed with swords and clubs. He said I was in the Temple every day and you didn't lay hands on Me then.

What Jesus is doing is exposing their hypocrisy. These leaders always hated Christ and always wanted Him dead but they did not want to do this in front of the people (Luke 19:47-48; 20:19; 22:2).

They were afraid of the people. The people were drawn to Jesus Christ, but these religious leaders want to get rid of Him so in the dark of the night, they came to get Him.

This was a dark hour. This hour was an hour of darkness.  
There are **four observations** we want to make:

- 1) False religious hypocrites secretly hate one truly righteous.**
- 2) False religious hypocrites have no power unless God permits it.**
- 3) False hypocrites cannot ever stop God's plan and will. They cannot stop God from doing what He decides to do.**
- 4) False religious hypocrites eventually face God's severe judgment.**

**"Woe" to the hypocrite.**