



Matthew 26:51-54

(51) And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. (52) Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (53) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

King James Version

The suddenness of Peter's reaction reveals a lack of forethought and patience. Just before his action, he had asked Christ, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" However, he did not wait for an answer (Luke 22:49-50). His abruptness reflects that he was moved more by his passion—his emotions—instead of upright, reasoned thought and godly principle. Such ungoverned passion rarely leads to righteous action.

Pride is also evident in his action. Perhaps he was even trying to impress his fellow disciples. Peter had boasted earlier that he would remain faithful to Christ even if the others were to stumble (Matthew 26:33). Initially, his strike may have appeared to be sparked by a courageous and noble faith, but it was wrongly motivated. It actually manifested more vainglory than faithful courage or nobility. Peter's carnality echoes the approach of many nominal Christians, inspired more by the desire to outshine others instead of a sincere passion to honor and glorify God.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing Malchus' Ear (Part One)

Related Topics:

[Christ's Healings](#)

[Healing of Malchus's Ear](#)

[Jesus Christ's Miracles](#)

[Vainglory Cancels Righteousness](#)

[Vainglory Does not Glorify God](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2026 [Church of the Great God](#)