

Junior Defenders



Lesson 7

May 13, 2007

THE STORY OF THE STRANGE SURGERY

One of Jesus' most strange and amazing miracles happened a short time before His crucifixion. It involved a form of "surgery" that was unknown to ordinary man until the 20th century—reattaching a body part that had been cut off.

KEY VERSE: "...for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Ex. 15:26).

LESSON IN VIEW

The story of the strange surgery begins in the garden of Gethsemane. It was a special, beautiful place where Jesus liked to pray. On this night, however, His reason for urgent prayer was anything but beautiful. He was praying because the time for Him to be betrayed by His disciple Judas and crucified was coming soon. Even though Jesus was part of the Godhead, He had a man's body and that part of Him really did not want to die.

When Jesus was finished praying, Judas and a band of Roman soldiers came to the garden. The Romans asked Him, "Art thou Jesus of Nazareth?" When Jesus answered them, the men fell down on the ground because Jesus' very words were so powerful.

Jesus was not alone in the garden, however. Some of His disciples were with Him. One of them was Peter, who was very angry that Judas and these soldiers dared to threaten Jesus. Peter had a sword with him and he decided to use it. He approached a Roman named Malchus and cut off his ear.

As you can imagine, this could have turned into a battle—Jesus and the disciples against Judas and the Romans. But that is not what happened because Jesus knew that He was to be crucified so that men like the disciples and the Romans could be saved from their sins. Jesus told Peter to put his sword away.

That's when He did the truly amazing thing. He picked up Malchus' ear and put it back against the servant's head. It reattached!

In the last part of the 20th century, surgeons first began reattaching body parts like fingers and even legs. It takes amazing skill because the surgeons have to rejoin muscles, nerves, blood vessels and skin. Jesus, however, was able to instantly reattach an ear almost 2,000 years ago, without any of the medical technology that some parts of the world have today.

His amazing miracle is a reminder of how powerful God is—He is our healer.

LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus had a lot on His mind that night in the garden. His body was unwilling to die, but His spirit was willing to follow God's will. The struggle between the divine nature and human nature of Jesus was so great that the Bible states He sweated "...as if it were great drops of blood..." (Luke 22:44) while He was praying. In the midst of that turmoil, Jesus continued to show compassion. He could have been angry at Judas and the Roman soldiers or so preoccupied with His own situation that He did not pay any attention to them. Instead, He took the time to heal the ear of a man who had come to arrest Him. That kind of compassion may be the most amazing thing about this story. That is the kind of compassion that we can have, too, if Jesus is living in our hearts.

TERMS TO LEARN

Betrayed—to have someone who is a friend turn against you

ACTIVITY CORNER

Find a biology book that shows the different layers of the body. Look at all the muscles, skin, bones, nerves and blood vessels and think about what a miracle it was for Jesus to have reattached an ear through His own power.

MINI QUIZ

1. Where did today's story take place?
2. Who was Malchus?
3. Who cut off Malchus' ear?

