

Malchus- the One Who Lost His Ear

(Lesser Known Characters)

Մաղքոս՝ Ականջ Կորսնցնողը

(Ոչ Հանրածանօթ Նկարագիրներ)

Luke 22:47-51; John 18:10

A villager was visiting his cousin in a busy metropolitan city. While they were walking down the street, the villager stopped suddenly and said: “**Listen to the lovely sound of that cricket.**” His cousin was surprised. How in the world he could hear the voice of cricket within a busy, noisy city. Indeed, the villager did find a cricket in the corner of the street.

The city guy was astonished at how his cousin heard the sound of a cricket. The villager said, “Let me explain.” He took from his pocket a pile of coins and dropped them on the ground. Suddenly most of the people who were walking around stopped and paid attention to what they had heard.

The wise villager said: “**We hear ... what we listen to.**”

The question to us is: “What do we hear in Fresno?”

Let me introduce to you today a new character from the Bible: **Mr. Malchus**. He was a servant (perhaps a slave, the Greek word is *dulos*) of the high priest. It is Jewish name from *Malakh*, which means *king or kingdom*.

That evening, he was coming with Judas Iscariot to arrest Jesus. Think how he felt psychologically. He was coming to arrest the most wanted person in those days, a man who thought he was the Messiah. However, instead of arresting Jesus, he got his ear chopped off. And who did it? Peter, our man, the rock, the man to whom Jesus would give the keys of heaven (according to John).

Why in the world did Peter the fisherman have a sword? Whose sword was it?

Why did the four gospels tell this story? Why was the name Malchus mentioned in the Gospel of John?

Why did Jesus heal this man? In fact, this is the last healing of Jesus in the gospels.

We do not have answers of these questions. One thing is clear, Jesus doesn't want violence. **But Jesus said, "No more of this!"**(Luke 22:51)

On contrary, we see his compassion towards the wounded man; we see that even someone described as a servant or a slave mattered to him; **we see his willingness to confront threat and opposition with the power of love and healing.**

On the other hand, putting back Malchus' ear indicates **that Jesus wanted this man to continue hearing.** Hearing what? Perhaps Jesus wanted to see this man's life change one day by hearing God's voice. Who knows?

For a few moments let's think about the ears. We have two of them. Every sound comes into our ears stereo and surround, hahaha...

The Ear has three portions, **external, middle, and inner.**

Part of the external ear is visible and it is called the *Pinna*:

What is the pinna? The pinna is the only visible part of the ear (the auricle) with its special helical shape. It is the first part of the ear that reacts with sound. The function of the pinna is to act as a kind of funnel which assists in directing the sound further into the ear. Without this funnel the sound waves would take a more direct route into the auditory canal. This would be both difficult and wasteful as much of the sound would be lost making it harder to hear and understand the sounds.¹

When we read about the ears in the scripture, we find different meanings as well.

-Listening to and obeying God's voice:

"If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes...Exodus 15;26

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! (Psalm 78:1)

making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; (Proverbs 2:2)

-Crying out to God and searching God's attention:

let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night...(Nehemiah 1:6)

Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groaning. (Psalm 5:1)

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. (Psalm 17:6)

-Having an obedient heart open to hear and listen:

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. (Psalm 40:6)

-Warning

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Rev 2:7)

-Role of the Ear (as important as tasting food)

for the ear tests words, as the palate tastes food. (Job 34:3)

So what can learn from this event, Malchus' ear healing event?

1. Jesus wants Malchus to hear the Voice of God.

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In different places Jesus mentions: **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**
(Matthew 11:15 ESV)

Malchus was the servant of the high priest, implying that he would be held responsible for hearing what his **earthly master** told him. "Go and arrest Jesus..."

In healing the ear of Malchus, Jesus gives him a chance to hear **the genuine Master: to hear the voice of God**. In fact, one day Malchus could hear the man who cut his ear, Peter. After the Pentecost, Peter preached to a crowd. Imagine, Malchus standing with the crowd in Acts chapter 2, or chapter 3. Who knows?

2. Jesus wants YOU to hear God's voice.

How do we hear His voice? How can one be receptive to God's voice, I will say by hearing God's words...

In the New Testament two words are used to describe words. "**Logos and Rhema.**"

-We are more familiar with **Logos**.

In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word (Logos) was with God, and the Word (Logos) was God. (John 1:1 ESV)

And everyone who hears these words (Logos) of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (Matthew 7:26)

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word Logos and understands it. He indeed bears fruit ..." (Matthew 13:23)

Logos has been described as the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ himself. We need to be receptive to His Word. Sometimes I am worried that some of us just receive His words as knowledge. You see Jesus Christ, the **Logos, the Word** is much more than knowledge.

-Let me introduce to you the second word **Rhema**:

But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (Rhema) that comes from the mouth of God."" (Matthew 4:4 ESV)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word (Rhema) of Christ. (Romans 10:17 ESV)

Knowledge about God is good, but faith needs more than knowledge.

We all can read the written word of God. Sometimes I read His word to seek knowledge, an inquiry to understand a word. But most of the time (especially in my quiet and prayer time) I ask God to help me to read His written word in a way that talks to me directly. **Logos becomes Rhema, an active Word in my life.** That affects my decisions; instead of seeking my will, I will seek His will. **“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word *Rhema* of Christ.”**

We Hear his voice from His word. We hear his voice through prayer. We hear his voice during worship. We hear his voice in our daily quiet time. We hear his voice in the nature. We hear his voice through other believers...

Illustration:

During our vacation, we took trolley to explore the city of Portland. While we were on this trolley, there were signs and rules about how to behave on this trolley, like, we should not stand when the trolley is moving, we should not extend our hands outside the trolley and more. Now I can read these signs, or hear those rules and say, “They are suggestions”. I can say, “This is their opinion not mine.” I can say, “Who cares?” I say, “This is an outdated rule; they should change their rules in the contemporary world”...

Are you following me? Those rules and signs were there to protect me. They are not suggestions. Many of us treat God’s word like that. His Word is life. It is not simply knowledge for mental exercise. We sometimes think God is just suggesting things. Is God’s Word an authority in your life?

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.” 2 Tim. 3:16 (NLT)

His Word is good to 1. Teach us what is True. 2. To teach us to realize what is wrong in our lives 3. To straighten us out 4. To teach us to do the right thing

If you are not listening to Him, you are listening to someone else.

“I have made up my mind to obey Your laws forever, no matter what.” Ps. 119:112 (CEV) “I will never lay aside Your laws, for You have used them to restore my joy and health.” Ps. 119:93 (LB)

Whose voice do you hear today?

Malchus regained his ear so he could hear better...I don't know about his life, most likely he heard that the same Jesus who healed his ear, was crucified and rose from the death.

Illustration:

There is a story about a man was having difficulty communicating with his wife and concluded that she was becoming hard of hearing.

So he decided to conduct a test... without her knowing about it.

One evening he sat in a chair on the far side of the room. Her back was to him and she could not see him. Very quietly he whispered, "Can you hear me?"

There was no response.

Moving a little closer, he asked again, "Can you hear me now?"

Still no reply; quietly he edged closer and whispered the same words, but still no answer.

Finally, he moved right in behind her chair and said, "Can you hear me now?"

To his surprise and chagrin, she responded with irritation in her voice, "**For the fourth time, yes!**"²

Maybe most of us have this problem, we do not hear God....it is our problem and not God's.

Do you hear His voice this morning?

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’” (Hebrews 3:7-11 ESV)

1 <http://www.hear-it.org/The-outer-ear>

2 <http://www.danishchurchsocial.com/sermons/2016/4/18/listen-the-good-shepherd-is-calling>