

REDEMPTION GUIDE

WEEK 5 MARK 14:43-52

Corresponding Passages: Matt. 26:47-56, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11

Reflection

From this week's reading we get a picture similar to that of a scene out of an old Frankenstein movie – a large, angry, weapon clad mob lead by the “holy men” of the day, tenaciously determined to end the life of the impostor that has caused such a ruckus in their community. The mob, directed by Judas, identifies Jesus and then proceeds to arrest Him in front of His disciples. Peter, prone to impulsive outbursts and erratic behavior, busts out his sword and lays waste to one of the assailant's ears - only then to have Jesus miraculously reattach it to the guys face! Hollywood would have difficult time dreaming up a more dramatic progression of events.

Peter lashed out at the mob because of a deep love for and allegiance to Jesus. While his motives seem pure, just think about the ramifications if Peter had succeeded in wiping out the angry mob Rambo style, “saving” Jesus from His impending demise. It would have been catastrophic!

Many of us, similar Peter, have moments in life where we think God needs our help to achieve His ultimate purpose. We, acting apart from the Holy Spirit, dogmatically force evangelism, trade the Gospel of Jesus for social justice causes, and recklessly demonize various groups and organizations, all because we think that God needs our help in His plan for human redemption. In the end, actions such as these that are unguided by the Spirit's leading will end up causing more harm than help to the work of the Gospel.

Questions

1. Is there anything that strikes you as interesting from this week's reading (other than the naked guy at the end)?
2. Looking back 2,000 years on this story, what would have been the consequences of Peter “saving” Jesus from having to suffer here?
3. Have you experienced situations in your life that were difficult and confusing, but in retrospect you were able see a purpose? How did you respond to the difficulty and confusion?
4. In what ways can believing the Gospel and the Truth about Jesus help you respond more like Jesus the next time a situation is difficult, confusing and seemingly without purpose?
5. Can you think of other examples (biblical & non-biblical) where man has imposed himself on God in an effort to ‘help’ God, but in the bigger picture, caused more damage than good?
6. What does it communicate to God when we try to redeem or fix a situation in our own way?
 - a. How does our rebellion affect the mission of the church? What can we as a community of believers do about this?