

John 12:12-13,17-18,18:1-14

"Let's again marvel at the mastery and love of Jesus!"

John 12:12-13,17-18 NLT

*The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A huge crowd of Passover visitors<sup>13</sup> took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,*

*"Praise God!*

*Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Hail to the King of Israel!" ...*

<sup>17</sup> *Those in the crowd who had seen Jesus call Lazarus back to life were telling others all about it.*

<sup>18</sup> *That was the main reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this mighty miracle.*

one of impacts God's love has on our lives - our response of praise / songs of thanks & celebr .

I love the note of joy that marks our services as we sing/testify.

including this morn - as reenacted what we call "Palm Sun ." -- crowd giving their version of ticker-tape parade as J entered Jer --honoring J for his love, miracles.

the acc't in Mark (11:8) : *Many in the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut leafy branches in the fields and spread them along the way.*

Lk (19:37) : *all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.*

Jn : fresh in their minds - Lazarus. (Jn 11)

also healing blind. lame.

some had also heard of his teaching. --all people of all faiths ackn as one of world's greatest teachers.

knew of love for children, lepers & other outcasts, "sinners."

know what? if that crowd (on original Palm Sun ) had reason to celebr / praise, we even more --his greatest acts of love, greatest miracles yet to come. agree ?!

( )

said "acts" and "miracles" (plural) bec not just thinking of what happened on Good Fri , & Easter Sun.

I actually want to focus on Thurs night. --(saving Fri / Sun for next Sun's serm!)

& focus on just small part of Thurs night: late Thurs night, after (Jn 13-17) foot-washing & last supper, upper room discourse, prayer.

Jn's account of what happened late Thurs night:

## John 18:1-14 NLT

*After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees.<sup>2</sup> Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had gone there many times with his disciples.<sup>3</sup> The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a battalion of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him. Stepping forward to meet them, he asked, "Whom are you looking for?"*

<sup>5</sup> *"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.*

*"I am he," Jesus said. Judas was standing there with them when Jesus identified himself.<sup>6</sup> And as he said, "I am he," they all fell backward to the ground!<sup>7</sup> Once more he asked them, "Whom are you searching for?"*

*And again they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."*

<sup>8</sup> *"I told you that I am he," Jesus said. "And since I am the one you want, let these others go."<sup>9</sup> He did this to fulfill his own statement: "I have not lost a single one of those you gave me."*

<sup>10</sup> *Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant.<sup>11</sup> But Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup the Father has given me?"*

<sup>12</sup> *So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up.<sup>13</sup> First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.<sup>14</sup> Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, "Better that one should die for all."*

if I were Jn , writing this part of story, taken care of this in 3 sentences.

said: Judas had gone to temple told where find J . Sent out group of soldiers found him in a garden. Arrested him & took him for trial.

instead, told incredible amount of detail.

know where he was arrested (across the Kidron Valley in a garden)

who was w him (11 ds. Judas - only one absent until came to lead band of soldiers)

who was w Judas (Roman soldiers; also temple police, rep chief priests of that day)

how they came (w lights/ torches/ swords/ clubs)

how J was identified (Judas planted a kiss on his cheek)

conversation that took place in this obviously very brief event in the life of Jesus. ("Whom are you looking for?"

"Jesus of Nazareth" "I am he"

"let these others go.")

what Peter did. (pulled his sword & struck a man )

what job/position of man P struck! (chief priest's servant)

his name! (Malchus) [incredible! think about how many people there are in the B whose names we don't know?! ]

unbelievable --

even know where Peter struck him. (ear)

and which ear (right)

can keep on going if add from other acc'ts . (what J did w that ear.)

astounding amount of data we know about that little event.

bec of that very detail - vivid glimpse at Christ

could it be story is given in such detail bec God had something say to us, that would result in praise / glory ?

here's the praise & glory of J that I see arising from passage. (heard someone preach sermon on this passage -- Dennis Kinlaw-- & stuck w me.)

### 1) Jesus has absolute mastery in difficult circumstances.

contrast J's composure with that of the people who came to arrest him.

you would think that the police be calmest ones in the bunch:

- come to arrest street preacher.
- no need to worry about crowd of followers getting out of hand--everybody in city asleep.

but they brought lights/torches/spears/clubs .  
why did they bring all this? they were uneasy.

they got there w lights/spears/... Judas kissed him. & J said "whom do you seek?" calm. taking initiative.

and they said "we're looking for J of N " "(good); I am he."  
& the text says: they stepped back and fell to the ground.

#### Who is in control here?

I believe suddenly became aware of the Person standing there before them. from his calmness & his "person", they intuitively knew the absolute wrongness of ever laying a hand on him, and they staggered back and fell to the ground.

and J looked at them again and said "whom is it you seek?" "J of N "  
"I told you -- I am he."

vivid eg of the mastery of J of the difficult moments.

text says: they took him and bound him and carried him away.  
equally true : he climbed in their laps /"take me back to who sent you."

You don't think soldiers staggering back from the awe of his presence could have put shackles on him if he not helped them to, do you?  
you don't think could have held him if hadn't wanted to be held, do you?

in Mt 26:52,53 J tells Peter "*Put your sword back in its place*". I could *call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels*

no. climbed into their laps & let himself be taken.

J is the One who knows what is going to happen. v4 - *Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him*.

not only knows , able to do what needed. has "absolute mastery" in every sit .

even death & hell (as would show in 3 short days) are not too much for him.

neither is any sit you or I might face.

so 1) J has absolute mastery in difficult circs .

### 2) Jesus uses that mastery to protect his foolish disciples.

in middle of this (J letting himself be taken), Peter - very excited - couldn't believe J let this happen to him.

Peter had staked his life on J . something had to be done. & so he did it: pulled his sword and started swinging.

I really don't think he improved the sit , do you?

I don't think J was in any stronger position bec P was swinging that sword than if P tucked his tail & run away.

but P : "somebody's got to do something; somebody has to act now."

& how foolish & how absurd can you look?

did you notice what it was P struck? struck the servant's ear. (aim off.)

and struck his right ear. right ear is gen on the wrong side for swordsman.

have been days when my service for Christ looks a bit like that.

we often miss the huge miracle in this story.

(there is miracle of Malchus' ear. --talk about that later.)

bigger miracle: that Peter came out alive.

here are these men w swords/spears, uneasy/nervous. & suddenly one of J's friends begins swinging a sword.

miracle was that didn't have half a dozen spears through him in couple seconds flat.

then this man J had invested 3 yrs in ...

but into that confusion, J steps w his commanding presence to save his impetuous apostle.

and while he has their attention, ds slip away.

Jn could never get over that.

yrs later when writing his gospel, said (v9) this was the fulfillment of promise made in ch 6 - not let any of those who follow be lost.

in midst of moment-when-his-life-was-hanging in the balance, J moved to protect lives of ds. brought them thru .

there are days of similar confusion/darkness/danger in our lives.  
In those days it is well for us to remember there was never a moment in the life of our Lord J that he was "under the circs". He was the absolute Master of the circs --of the difficult circs .

& he uses that-mastery in compassionate concern for us his often foolish ds .

sometimes our foolishness gets us in difficult moments.  
But I believe whatever bind, he will be perfectly able to preserve us.

not deliver ds from all stress. but kept them whole in sit that could destroy .

*"I have not lost a single one of those you gave me."*

### **3) Jesus gives his enemies unexpected, inescapable witnesses of his love.**

again: whose ear clipped by Peter's sword? Malchus, servant of high pr .  
(high pr - one who commissioned arrest. v14 *good if one man died for people* )

know what J did ?

( "he touched his ear and healed him" Luke 22:51 )

and do you know where M went?

can you picture the dynamics of the sit when M went back to Caiaphas ( high pr ) to report on success of assignment?

I can see C anxiously awaiting these fellows to come back. whether got this J of N or not.

finally they do come in.

here's how Dennis Kinlaw imagines the convers :

"How did it go?" *"went very well. we got him."*

"did you have any trouble getting him?" *"not really; just a little."*

"what do you mn --a little tr ?"

Everybody turns and looks at M . *"well, M had a little difficulty."*

C looks up, "M , what was the problem?" *"Sir, it was my ear."*

"what about ear?" *"one of his servants pulled sword cut ear off."*

C: "That can't be; it's on now." M : *"Yeah, that's the problem about it."*

"what do you mn ?" *"Well, the fellow that we got/that you sent us to get, he reached down picked up ear restored it perfectly well"*

I don't know whether M said thing that was in his mind, but you can't tell me he wasn't saying betw the lines "sir, do you really think we arrested right man?"

but C pushed on that night, & crucified J the next day.

& the next Mon, all C's servants showed up for work. & next Tues. Wed .  
everyday when C looked up, there in front of him was his servant M , w that right ear--as big as Mt Everest.

J placed witness of his love --even love for enemy C -- right there in C's household.

that's our J !

- gives even his enemies a clear witness of his love!

- & has enough mastery of circs (!) that can protect his foolish disciples!

I'm glad writers didn't just tell this acc't (of late Thurs night) in 3 sentences.

instead, they fueled within us some more praise/ worship of this J we love!  
"Let's again marvel at the mastery and love of Jesus!"