

Title: Jesus The Action Man - John 18 1-18

Read:

¹ Jesus, having prayed this prayer, left with his disciples and crossed over the brook Kidron at a place where there was a garden. He and his disciples entered it. ²⁻⁴ Judas, his betrayer, knew the place because Jesus and his disciples went there often. So Judas led the way to the garden, and the Roman soldiers and police sent by the high priests and Pharisees followed. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords. Jesus, knowing by now everything that was coming down on him, went out and met them. He said, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁵⁻⁶ He said, "That's me." The soldiers recoiled, totally taken aback. Judas, his betrayer, stood out like a sore thumb. ⁷ Jesus asked again, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸⁻⁹ "I told you," said Jesus, "that's me. I'm the one. So if it's me you're after, let these others go." (This validated the words in his prayer, "I didn't lose one of those you gave.") ¹⁰ Just then Simon Peter, who was carrying a sword, pulled it from its sheath and struck the Chief Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. Malchus was the servant's name. ¹¹ Jesus ordered Peter, "Put back your sword. Do you think for a minute I'm not going to drink this cup the Father gave me?" ¹²⁻¹⁴ Then the Roman soldiers under their commander, joined by the Jewish police, seized Jesus and tied him up. They took him first to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the Chief Priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it was to their advantage that one man die for the people. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was known to the Chief Priest, and so he went in with Jesus to the Chief Priest's courtyard. Peter had to stay outside. Then the other disciple went out, spoke to the doorkeeper, and got Peter in. ¹⁷ The young woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" He said, "No, I'm not." ¹⁸ The servants and police had made a fire because of the cold and were huddled there warming themselves. Peter stood with them, trying to get warm.

Think:

Jesus spread the message that he was the Son of God through peace. Simon Peter completely missed the point. In Simon Peter's mind he was doing right by getting his sword out and chopping the ear of the soldier off. You can imagine it can't you "I Simon Peter will save the Saviour of the World, with my sword." Was he then going to go around and chop off everyone else's ear that didn't believe? That wasn't the way Jesus did things, we can't go around using force to spread the fantastic news about God. Imagine going up to some guy at school or college and saying, "right if you don't accept Jesus, I'm going to thump you one." Even if they did say the words, they wouldn't mean them would they? No that's not the way Jesus did it. Jesus took care of people's needs before he spoke to them, Jesus was an action man. Think of the feeding of the five thousand, no one is going to listen if they are hungry so he fed them. All the healings he did, after all people are distracted when they are ill. So why would the soldier accept Jesus as his saviour, if a Christian had caused him harm? Why would that person you know accept Jesus as their saviour if your bully them? No we need to be action men and women like Jesus and help people, no hurt them. Only then will they be in a position to hear about Jesus.

Pray:

Lord please put me in a place this week where I can help someone and show them how great you are. Amen.

Action:

Come on you know someone who needs help. Grab a friend and go and help them. Bye.