

Discussion Guide

1. Jesus was teaching His disciples to depend on Him rather than on themselves. What deficiencies inhibit our ability to trust in God when things get tough?
2. The general demeanor of believers is to be non-violent. What reasons did Jesus give that remind us that violence is not the Christian way?
3. What do you believe you would have done if you were Peter?
4. Christians fall into to camps. Some believe violence is never called for and others jump to the conclusion that they can resort to violence if their rights are challenged. What is to be our perspective?
5. How does defunding the police contradict Romans 13:4?
6. Our justice system in America is becoming more corrupt with each passing day. How does our text help us put that in perspective?
7. In your own words, share what you learned about owning personal weapons.

ANSWERS: violence, unnecessary, bloodshed, trust, overconfident, emotion, run, sword, protection



Lesson: Two Hundred fifty
Series: The Cross of Christ
Title: The Kiss of Death
Text: Matthew 26:47-56
Date: May 9, 2021

Matthew 26:47 While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

“one of the twelve”

48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.”

“kiss”

1 Cor. 13:12 “Greet one another with a holy kiss”

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

The dialogue between Jesus and the crowd.

Jn 18:4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?”⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am He.”

“He” is omitted in the original.

The personal reference of “I Am” is one of the names for Jehovah in O.T.

Jesus claimed to be the “I am”

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

(5b) And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

6 So when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way.”

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

2 Corinthians 10:3–4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but **divinely powerful** for the destruction of **fortresses**. 5 We are destroying **speculations** and every lofty thing **raised up against the knowledge of God**, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Weapons are meant for personal

_____ **not personal**

aggression or retaliation.

Wisdom from the Revolutionary war.

“Trust God and keep your power dry”

Nehemiah 4:15–17 When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work. 16 From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while **half of them held the spears**, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah. 17 Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other **holding a weapon**

3. They _____ rather than wait on God's deliverance.

4. They don't understand the _____.

Luke 22:31-38 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" 34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me." 35 And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing."

36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, **and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.**"

"But now" [alla-nun] emphatic - Strong emphasis

Why the rebuke?

38 They said, "Lord, look, **here are two swords.**" And He said to them, "It is enough."

50 And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

"Friend" - [hetairos] -

"do what you have come for."

Command or a question?

It's best to interpret it as a command because it maintains the theme of Divine inevitability that permeates the entire passion narrative

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

John 18:10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place;

Three reasons why violence is not the answer:

1. Violence often leads to _____.

"for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

Middle voice - Reflexive - When we destroy others we bring destruction upon ourselves

We don't have the authority to take life.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

The government has the authority to exercise capital punishment (death penalty).

Romans 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the **sword** for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

2. It's _____ because

God doesn't need it.

53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

"twelve legions of angels"

A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers = 72,000 angels

2 Kings 19 Hezekiah's prayer summoned one single angel who slew 185,000 Assyrians.

If the Lord wants to deliver us, he can do so apart from _____.

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3. We have to _____ **God's plan.**

54 "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

55 At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.

56 "But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

Four characteristics of deficient Christians.

1. **They are unprepared because they are** _____.

2. **They react out of** _____
rather than revelation.

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