
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Is it okay to shoot someone breaking into your home?***

Recently I overheard two people having a conversation about what they would do if someone broke into their homes in the middle of the night. One lady said,

I ask my pastor, if someone breaks into my home, don't I have the right to shoot them and protect myself? And he told me, "You sure can; God doesn't expect you to just stand there and let someone attack you." Then he quoted a passage to me where Jesus talked about a sword ... but I can't remember the passage.

The passage which this lady could not remember is the following passage:

Luke 22:35-38

³⁵ And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

So they said, "Nothing."

³⁶ Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and **he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.**

³⁷ For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

³⁸ So they said, "**Lord, look, here are two swords.**"

And He said to them, "**It is enough.**"

Q: Does this passage justify self-defense or participation in war?

A: No. Jesus told the disciples to buy a sword for an object lesson. He was going to teach these disciples very soon that they were NOT allowed to use the sword for defense.

Luke 22:49-51

⁴⁹ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, "**Permit even this.**" And He touched his ear and healed him.

The parallel passage reads like this:

Matthew 26:51-54

⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵² But Jesus said to him, "**Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.**"

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

If Jesus could not be defended with a sword against this ungodly mob, how could Christians conclude they can defend themselves with a gun?

- Jesus was sinless – we are sinners.
- Jesus was unjustly put to death – we deserve to die because of our sins.
- If the sinless Son of God could not be defended with a sword, how can we use lethal force to defend ourselves?

When Jesus told Peter to put his sword back into "its place," He forever prohibited His disciples from using the sword to defend themselves. Lethal (deadly) force is not an option for Christians.

If you would like to hear a thorough examination of what the Bible teaches about warfare and Christian involvement in lethal force, I invite you to visit our website. In the drop-down menu box, scroll down to "**War & The Bible**" and you will find several audio files and written articles dealing with what the OT and the NT teaches on this vital subject.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.