

# MISSING THE MARK



*Put Away Your Sword*

## *Matthew 26:47-54*

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

## *Matthew 26:47-54*

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

## *Matthew 26:47-54*

<sup>52</sup> "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

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Jesus never stopped loving  
Judas. Not even for a second.



“Friendship, for Jesus, does not stop with betrayal, even though now it is tinged with deep sadness.”

(N.T. Wright)



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They represent the highest of authority and some lethal weaponry.



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(John 18:10)

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"One of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him."  
(Luke 22:50-51)

“Never, Lord! This should never happen to you!”



“Never, Lord! This should never happen to you!”

“Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”



Peter was not aiming for the  
guy's ear!



## Luke 22:36-38

<sup>36</sup> He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup> It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment." <sup>38</sup> The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That's enough!" he replied.

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“Rome only crucified those who were a potential threat to the empire. For Jesus to be crucified, Rome would have to convict him as a potential revolutionary. And this is the point of the swords. With swords in their possession, Jesus and His disciples would be viewed as potential revolutionaries and Jesus would therefore fulfill Isaiah 53 to be numbered with other (revolutionary) transgressors.” (Preston Sprinkle)

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“Peter saw the use of his sword as the way of deliverance from the present trouble, but Jesus viewed it as out of character with all that he stood for. Further, Peter was overlooking the fact that people who are hit with a sword have the practice of retaliating in kind; in the end the user of a sword is apt to finish his days on the end of someone else’s sword.” (Leon Morris)

“Some treat Jesus’ words to Peter in that moment like they have as much power as a fortune-cookie message. They say: ‘What a nice, idealistic statement. But that’s not how the real world works.’”

(Aaron Salvato)

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“How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

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The way of violence is not the way of Jesus.



Peter believes he needs to do violence to save the innocent.

Turning things on their head, Jesus trusts that the suffering of the innocent will save the violent.

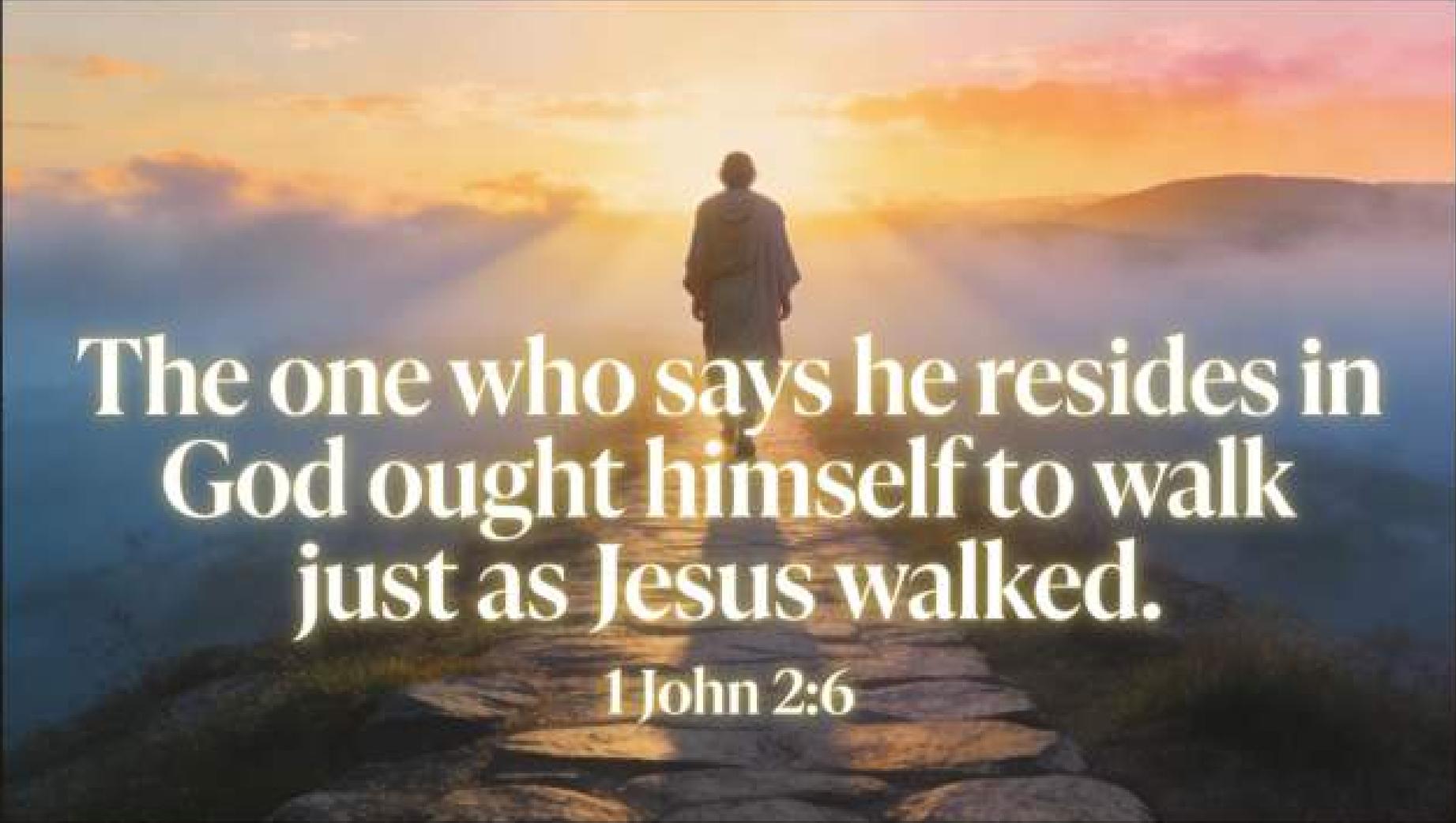
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The way of violence is not the way of Jesus.

The ways of God—"fulfilling the Scriptures"—will often be in conflict with the ways of the world.

“The way of Peter will always be more attractive to the flesh than the way of Jesus. In a culture that despises any sign of weakness, cutting our enemy down feels much more productive than trying to heal them.”

(Aaron Salvato)

A person is seen from behind, walking on a stone path that leads towards a sunset over a valley. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and pink. The person is wearing a long, light-colored robe. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

The one who says he resides in  
God ought himself to walk  
just as Jesus walked.

1 John 2:6

## Closing Reflections

Pray for someone that you know who is in a “Judas season” of life, walking away from a commitment to Jesus, betraying their former beliefs.

## Closing Reflections

Do you feel a natural instinct to make attempts to defend God, or the Christian faith, when they seem to be under attack? What does a Christ-like, Spirit-led response look like?

## Closing Reflections

How does the admonition from Jesus to “put away the sword” and turn away from violence land in your soul?  
What is your gut-level, internal response?

## Closing Reflections

Invite the Spirit to form you into a person whose desire is for a life that fulfills the directives of Scripture, to walk as Jesus walked.

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