



SUMMER AT ENCOUNTER

SWORDS AND COTTON CANDY

August 1, 2021

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MESSAGE NOTES

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. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. 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 – 51

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

— Matthew 26:52 – 53

"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

— John 19:10

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." — John 19:11

You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. — Matthew 5:38 – 41



DISCUSSION

- What spoke most to you from the message on Sunday? Why?
- Why do you think Peter pulled out his sword and started a fight?
- What would you have done in that situation with Jesus?
- What kind of “weapons” do we use to show we are powerful?
- How have you responded to someone swinging their sword at you?
- Why do you think Jesus refused to use his true power?
- What does that say to us about true power?
- Do you agree or disagree with the phrase real power exists in surrender? Why or why not?
- How can someone “give themselves away” like Jesus did, without becoming a doormat?
- What are a few key areas you may need to surrender?
- What steps do you need to take to surrender these things?
- What is stopping you from doing that?