

Wednesday

Messy People

Week 1- "Christian, put away your sword!"

1. Read Matthew 26:47-50. Summarize what is happening here? What is the setting? What is the mood?
2. Read Matthew 26:51-52 and John 18:8-11 What does Peter do when the soldiers come to arrest Jesus? What is Jesus' response? Why do you think Peter used his sword that night? Why do you think Jesus was not pleased?
3. Read Matthew 10:34-38. What did Jesus say? What do you think he meant? Why would Peter have been justified in bringing a sword that night to defend Jesus?
4. Alright, let's make this personal. What does Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12 tell us "the sword" represents?
5. What is the purpose of a sword? What does it do? (Hebrews 4:12 answers this).
6. In the hands of the wrong person (someone with hate and evil intentions) how is a sword dangerous (ex. The father and son who recently killed Ahmad)?
7. In the hands of a wise and skilled and strategic person who is under GOOD authority, how can "the sword" be used to bring about peace (think about a surgeon with his knife and military force used correctly)?
8. Have you ever seen a well-meaning Christian use "the sword" carelessly against someone? Share an example. What was the result?
9. Have you ever felt attacked by someone or felt like someone was attacking Jesus and then felt the need to use God's Word as a weapon against them? Share an example. Why is this the wrong use of our swords?
10. Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy" (Matt 5:7) and then he tells Peter in the Garden that "those who take the sword shall perish with the sword". What's the lesson to remember when dealing with people?
11. Why do we not have to worry about "defending Jesus?" (Matt. 26:53-56 and John 10:17,18)
12. How can we apply this lesson right now when it comes to social media?

Me: [close with Luke 22:47-53 and Jon Courson commentary](#)