



Sword for Sword by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" (**John 18:11**)

The specific reason Peter's use of his sword was condemned on that particular occasion was because Jesus must be taken by the mob to accomplish God's purpose in Him. Jesus also added:

But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (**Matthew 26:52**)

THE RULE FOR THE WORLD WAS THAT "ALL WHO TAKE THE SWORD WILL PERISH BY THE SWORD." This clearly means that all who live by violence can expect a violent response! Now, address the mob violence and the police response!

QUESTION: "I agree with what you wrote, but why did Jesus tell them to take the swords? I have often wondered about that. Did He do that just to make this point you wrote about? Just wondering what you thought?"

ANSWER: "So they said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' And He said to them: 'It is enough'" (**Luke 22:38**).

- 1) He didn't command that the swords should be taken along;
- 2) by having "two" someone surely would use one;
- 3) it was a token amount of protection, knowing that many more people would be coming for Him than was with Him in the Garden. In other words, "It is enough" signifies that Jesus did not want, nor anticipate, an armed resistance to keep Him from doing what He came to do.

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" (**Luke 22:49**)

The Apostles saw that resistance was impossible, and thus, they asked if He wanted them to stand their ground. Peter's response with one of the swords to cut off Malchus' right ear (**John 8:10-11**) brought Jesus' words, "Permit even this" (**Luke 22:51**), which was only enough to give Jesus an opportunity to perform a miracle, proving to the mob that He was the one whom He had admitted Himself to be.

Nothing Jesus said forbids a violent response to a violent situation. The "governing authorities" are "not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is

God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil" (**Romans 13:1-4**). We must not confuse Jesus' explicit prohibition in the Garden of Gethsemane with the Holy Spirit's explicit explanation of God's authorization for civil authorities to maintain order among the godless. Civil authorities do not have to give the response to "whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him, also" (**Matthew 5:39**). There are two different responses for different situations. The Bible, properly understood, does not contradict Itself.

— *John T. Polk II*