

## Why did Jesus say, "he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one..." (Luke 22:36)?

**Good question!** Among many Christians, this is a commonly-used text. So, let's look at it in context to see what we can find...

When Jesus said, "he that hath no sword, let him... buy one"([Luke 22:36](#)), He was leading His 11 remaining disciples from the upper room to Gethsemane. In verse [38](#), we find that among the, at least 12, men there were only two swords. But Jesus said, "It is enough." If Jesus wanted them to have swords for self-defense, do you think that two swords would be enough to defend 12(or more) people?

After Jesus' temptations in the garden, Judas shows up with the angry mob who also had swords(vs [52](#)). Then, in verse [49](#), one of the disciples says, "Lord, shall we smite[fight] with the sword?". That's when Peter takes out a sword and cuts off an ear (John 18:10). Jesus heals the ear. "Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" ([Matthew 26:52-53](#)). Jesus is telling Peter, why are you trusting in weapons, when our heavenly Father can send angels to protect us? But if it is God's will that we should die for our faith, then so be it. We cannot go against the Father's will. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.([Matthew 16:25](#)). Previously, Jesus said "... **resist not evil**: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."([Matthew 5:39](#)). What did Jesus do when tortured during the time He was arrested till the time He was dead on the cross? Did He resist and/or retaliate, like Peter?

"The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and [so] it is for us. He who is imbued (permeated or saturated) with the Spirit of Christ, abides (dwells, rests, continues, stands firm) in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence (hugged by Jesus). Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has **no need to resist evil**, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and 'all things' that are permitted 'work together for good to them that love God.' [Romans 8:28](#)."-Ellen White, ([Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p71](#)). (Parenthetical comments added by Sid)

[1 Peter 4:1](#) Forasmuch then as Christ suffered in the flesh, arm ye yourselves also with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

[Jeremiah 17:5](#) Thus saith Jehovah: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from Jehovah.... [7](#) Blessed is the man that trusteth in Jehovah, and whose trust Jehovah is.

**Psalm 91:9** For thou, O Jehovah, art my refuge! Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation; **10** There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent. **11 For he will give his angels charge over thee**, To keep thee in all thy ways. **12** They shall bear thee up in their hands, Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. **13** Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: The young lion and the serpent shalt thou trample under foot. **14** Because **he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him**: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. **15** He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; **I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him**, and honor him. **16** With long life will I satisfy him, And show him my salvation.

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So, why did Jesus want at least one sword with them(Lk22:36) before they went to Gethsemane? As far as I know, the inspired writers have not revealed this. But let's think some more about it...

When we think of a sword, we tend think of a very long knife, used mostly as a weapon. However, Strong's Concordance says it(G3162) could also be a knife, which is normally much shorter and has many uses. Did you know that the English word "knife" is never used in the NT KJV? Rather, "sword" is used instead.

Let's also consider the Gethsemane setting. According to Ellen, Jesus and His disciples often spent time there -- sometimes for the entire night. Ask anyone who spends time outside, away from town and you'll find that the most important tool to take with you is a knife. Why? Food processing, fire building, shelter/furniture construction, etc...

So, based on all the evidence here-provided, I would think that the reason Jesus wanted to make sure they had a "sword" with them was for the purposes a knife is mostly used for in the country, but not for self-defense.

BTW, I do support the US Constitution and all the amendments, including the 2nd. Why? Because without the protection of Christ's angels, people need defensive tools...

But, what about Christians who use weapons for self-defense? I have a theory, meaning I could be wrong, about that: God honors our freedom of choice. So, if we choose to take on the protection of ourselves and our families, then I think He lets us do that -- without the otherwise-provided protection that His angels provide. This is why I am not comfortable attending a church with gun-toting Deacons and/or Elders. I would much-prefer the protection of God's Holy angels.

-Sid Nash, [sidnash.org/docs/SelfDefense.pdf](http://sidnash.org/docs/SelfDefense.pdf)