



Beautiful Surrender

By Bryan Trotter on February 1

READING: Luke 22

There they stood in front of the crowd. This crowd of familiar faces with clubs and swords came to arrest the Man the disciples had devoted their lives to following. The disciples were ready to defend and protect Jesus at this moment. The adrenaline of a potential fight, fear of the unknown outcome and lack of sleep clouded their judgement. Then one disciple swung his sword, striking a servant of the high priest and cutting off his ear. Was it a warning to the other men in the crowd coming to arrest Jesus or poor aim? The disciples were not trained soldiers. They were fishermen, tax collectors, etc. Fighting was not the way and Jesus commanded His disciples to stop. He touched the man and healed his ear. Did Jesus need to be defended?

People not only opposed Jesus at the time of His arrest. He was opposed throughout the gospels by many individuals. He also told His followers that they would be opposed for following Him. If Jesus and the disciples faced opposition, should we expect it to be different for us?

People oppose and attack Jesus today. It happens and will continue to happen. People will oppose and attack your faith. It happens and will continue to happen. How will we respond? Will we take up our "sword" to defend Jesus and Christianity? Perhaps the better response is to receive the opposition and show the opposer unconditional love. Jesus did not say that all people will know us by how well we defend Him. He said all people will know we are His disciples by how we love one another.

How are you loving others today? How do you love the people who oppose your faith in Jesus Christ? Unconditionally loving others is hard, but it is what we are called to do. Jesus does not need any more defenders. He is God. He can take criticism and opposition. He calls us to love others.

PRAYER: Father, help me love others around me, especially when I do not feel like it. Please help me love others like You have loved me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 23

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