

# What Jesus Said About Violence and Fighting

## I. Introduction

It has become clear that we are living in perilous times. We are surrounded by enemies who want to enslave or kill us. Many have an extremely violent and cruel past history that show what they have done, and what they would do to their enemies if given the chance. The question for Christians is what is the correct response to these threats? Some would say that we must protect ourselves, our families, and our possessions at all costs. Our cultural and emotional response, our learned behavior, is to wage physical war against our enemies to stop them from overcoming our society and eradicating us.

The Lord told me that I was to teach on violence and fighting. He gave me an abundance of Scriptures that showed that violence and fighting are not His Way. We will examine Bible verses in regard to fighting and violence, including specific quotes from Jesus and others. The purpose of this study is to show that violence and fighting are a cultural and emotional response, a learned behavior, to opposition and aggression, but not one that Jesus promoted.

## II. Jesus' Words

### A. Sermon on the Mount

**Mt 5:21** Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment.

*Jesus taught that we should not kill. If you do you are in danger of the judgment.*

**Mt 5:38-48** Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, *Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.* 44But I say unto you, *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;* 45*That ye may be the children of your Father* which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 *For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?* 47And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

***Jesus taught that we should not resist evil; turn the other cheek; love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for those who persecute and despitefully use you. Doing these things show we are children of God!***

## **B. Jesus Before Pilate**

**Jn 18:36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants **fight**, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

**Servants** Strong's 5257-ministers, attendants, slaves

**Fight** Strong's 75-to toil, work, fight, strive, to carry on a war, be a soldier, go to war, to equip with weapons, arm oneself.

***Jesus never intended for His servants to fight because His kingdom is not of this world.***

## **C. Jesus to Disciples**

### **1. Disciples will face persecution**

**Mt 10:16, 22-25** Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves....22And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

***Jesus sent His disciples into violent and dangerous situations. He told them to be wise [Strong's 5429-sensible, discreet, cautious], and harmless [Strong's 185-innocent, without guile, deceit, honourable, good morals, worthy]. He told them they would be hated because of Him, so when they were persecuted they should flee to another town. He said if they called Him satan, they would call them the same.***

### **2. Disciples should not fight**

**Mt 26:47, 50-54** And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people....50And Jesus said unto him Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and *laid hands on Jesus, and took him*. 51And, behold, *one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear*. 52Then said Jesus unto him, *Put up again thy sword*

*into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.* 53Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

***Judas betrayed Jesus into the hands of enemies who planned to kill Him. Peter met violence with violence, but Jesus told him to put away his sword or he would die by the sword. He plainly stated that the Father would answer His prayer with angels to fight, but the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning His death and resurrection.***

### 3. Disciples should fear God

**Mt 18:8-9** Therefore if thy hand or thy foot *offend* thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

**Offend** Strong's 4624-to entrap, trip up, entice to sin, apostasy, led astray into sin, fall away from the truth, stumble

**Mt 10:28** And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

***We must not fear maiming or death by men; we must have reverent respect for God.***

### 4. Disciples should confess Jesus

**Mt 10:32-33** Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33But whosoever shall deny me before me, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

***We must never deny Christ or He will deny us.***

### 5. Disciples cannot love family more than God

**Mt 10:37** He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

***God must be our great love; we can have no other love above Him, that's idolatry.***

### 6. Disciples must pick up their cross.

**Mt 10:38-39** And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

**We must pick up our cross and follow Jesus, even to death, or we are not worthy. If confronted by the enemy, we might be asked to deny Christ or watch our loved ones be tortured or put to death. We may be tortured, mutilated, or even put to death for our faith. We must decide before that time that we will not deny Christ to save ourselves or anyone else. This is not the way of a coward: it is the Way of Christ!**

### III. Comments from Hebrews

**Heb 11:35-38** Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38(*Of whom the world was not worthy:*) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

***Believers throughout the generations suffered affliction and endured persecution until the end for the Lord Jesus. The Bible says the world was not worthy of these Believers.***

### IV. Comments from Paul

#### A. Paul considered worldly tribulation light compared to eternal glory.

**II Cor 4:17-18** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things that are not seen are eternal.

***Paul considered his worldly afflictions a light compared to eternal things to come.***

#### B. Paul told us to comfort one another that Jesus will return for those who survive.

**I Thes 4:15-17** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

***Paul wanted us to comfort one another with thoughts that Jesus will return for us!***

## V. Comments from John

### A. By being witnesses for the truth of Jesus, they willingly exposed themselves to death.

**Rev 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Loved** Strong's 25-they willingly exposed themselves to death

***Believers willingly exposed themselves to death to be witnesses for Jesus.***

### B. John spoke of the multitudes martyred for Jesus.

**Rev 7:9,13-14** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands....And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes: and whence came they? 14And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, *These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

***Martyrs for Jesus will be WITHOUT NUMBER! Why do we think we will be different?***

## VI. Rewards from Jesus

**Jesus told us that if we overcome we will be rewarded in eternity:**

\***Rev 2:7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

\***Rev 2:11**...He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death

\***Rev 2:17**...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

\***Rev 2:26-28** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28And I will give him the morning star.

**\*Rev 3:5** He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

**\*Rev 3:12** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

**\*Rev 3:21** To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

***These promises are given by God to the overcomers who stand up for Him!***

## **VII. Conclusion**

**We are living in perilous times, surrounded by our enemies who want to enslave or kill us. Society would teach us to battle violence with violence to overcome the enemy. Jesus taught that in the Kingdom of God, we should be peacemakers. Now is the time to settle in your hearts and minds which you will choose. Jesus said:**

**Mt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.**