

The Sword

Luke 10:1-4, 22:35-38, 47-53

Nov. 08, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt the urge to react or retaliate physically toward another person? What led you to feel that way? What ended up happening?
2. Can you think of any circumstances in which using force or violence is justified? Discuss.
3. As we have witnessed peaceful protests as well as violent riots this past year, what makes them different communal responses?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. As you reflect on the Garden of Gethsemane confrontation, what emotions and feelings surface as you put yourself in the position of Jesus, his disciples, Judas, those who accompanied Judas there?
2. Read over the Luke 10 and 22 passages. Compare and contrast the context of these two similar instructions of Jesus. What was Jesus' message to his disciples? What was he preparing them for?
3. What are the possible purposes of an instrument, like a sword?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the past few months felt like "when darkness reigns"? How has this time affected you? Has there been any moment when you have felt hopeless or discouraged? Has there been a time when you have experienced hope and encouragement?
2. Pastor Jason led us through a prayer response this past Sunday. It may be helpful to go through this as a group:
 - a. Where are we feeling darkness around us?
 - b. Peter carried a sword to the Mount of Olives. How are we entering our own spaces of darkness? What are we carrying with us?
 - c. Who/what do we feel the need to fight for and protect?
 - d. Ask God to help us let go of our swords. What feelings or thoughts arise? Listen for God's response.
 - e. Ask God to make us the healing presence of Christ in this moment. What form does this take for you?