THE QUESTION

In Clement's story, why did the apostle John swear an oath to the robber?

Asked by a THF member on May 9, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 7 numbered quotations · the 17 early Christian passages and 150 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/in-clements-story-why-did-the-apostle-john-swear-an-oath-to-the-robber

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

In Clement's story, John swore to the weeping robber that forgiveness had been found for him from the Savior, so the man would trust that hope remained and come back. Clement does not explain the oath further, but it fits early teaching that God Himself swore He wants the sinner's repentance.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 5

Clement tells the story to give hope

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria, writing around AD 200, says he tells this account about the apostle John to give the truly repentant even more confidence that a trustworthy hope of salvation still remains. The story, oath included, is told for that purpose.

1 “But to give you even more confidence — once you have truly repented in this way — that a trustworthy hope of salvation still remains for you, listen to a story that is no story, but a true account about the apostle John, handed down and preserved in memory.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 42
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 9, page 5 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 2 OF 5

John swore that forgiveness had been found

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The old man here is John. The robber weeps but hides his right hand, as if it were beyond cleansing. John gives his pledge and swears that forgiveness has been found for him from the Savior, then kisses that same hand and leads him back to the church. The forgiveness is credited to the Savior, not to John.

2 “When the old man came near, he embraced him, making his defense with sobs as best he could, and being baptized a second time in his tears — hiding only his right hand. But the apostle gave his pledge, swore that forgiveness had been found for him from the Savior, begged him, fell to his knees, kissed that very right hand as cleansed by repentance, and led him back to the church.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 42
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 5

Prayer and fasting followed the oath

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

John did not stop at the promise. He prayed for the man, fasted with him, and kept speaking with him until he was restored to the Church. Clement calls this a great example of true repentance and a sign of new birth.

3

> “Interceding for him with abundant prayers, struggling alongside him with continual fasting, and charming his mind with varied chains of words, he did not leave him, so they say, until he had restored him to the Church, giving a great example of true repentance and a great token of regeneration, a trophy of a resurrection that can be seen. […] rejoicing with bright [faces], singing hymns, opening the heavens.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 42
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 5 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 4 OF 5

God Himself swore He wants repentance

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Clement of Rome, in the 1st century, says the Lord declared with an oath (Ezekiel's "As I live") that He wants the sinner's repentance, not his death. The later Apostolic Constitutions adds that this word gives sinners hope so they do not sink into despair. John's oath may echo God's own sworn promise, though no writer here draws that link.

4

> “The ministers of the grace of God have, by the Holy Spirit, spoken of repentance; and the Lord of all things has himself declared with an oath regarding it, “As I live, says the Lord, I desire not the death of the sinner, but rather his repentance;” adding, moreover, this gracious declaration, “Repent, O house of Israel, of your iniquity. Say to the children of My people, Even if your sins reach from earth to heaven, and even if they are redder than scarlet, and blacker than sackcloth, yet if you turn to Me with your whole heart, and say, Father! I will listen to you, as to a holy people.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians*
THF's updated English

Source 17, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

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5 “Here the word gives hope to sinners, so that if they repent, they will have hope of salvation. Otherwise, out of despair, they might give themselves over to their transgressions.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 14, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 5

Christians normally avoided swearing oaths

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Justin Martyr repeats Christ's command not to swear at all. Clement himself says the mature Christian (his "Gnostic") is not inclined to swear and rarely uses an oath, though he may speak truth under oath. So John's oath stands out as a rare and solemn act.

6 “Regarding our refusal to swear and our commitment to speaking the truth, He instructed us: “Do not swear at all; but let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no; for anything more than this comes from evil.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “The Gnostic speaks truthfully under oath, but he is not inclined to swear, and he rarely uses an oath, as we have said. When he speaks truth under oath, it comes from his agreement with the truth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.8 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 10, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- Clement never explains in his own words why John chose to swear, so the reasons given here are our reading of the wider passages.
- Neither Clement nor Justin says how John's oath fits with Christ's command not to swear at all.
- The passages do not say the oath itself forgave the robber; Clement credits forgiveness to the Savior and to repentance.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 17 early Christian passages and 150 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–17, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 18–126, in Bible order), then 41 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *17 passages from 9 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 1–3*

1 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (on point 1) "therefore exhort you in the Lord to receive with all tenderness those that repent and return to the unity of the Church, that through… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 1) "as many as shall, in the exercise of repentance, return into the unity of the Church, these, too, shall belong to God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 1) "all them that repent, the Lord grants forgiveness, if they turn in penitence to the unity of God, and to communion with the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 4*

4 *First Apology* **Quote 6, page 4** our refusal to swear and our commitment to speaking the truth, He instructed us: "Do not swear at all; but let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 5*

5 *Diatessaron* 3 (1885 English; on point 1) "3:3 And he came into all the region which is about Jordan, proclaiming the 40 baptism of repentance unto the forgiveness of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 6*

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 5) their brother without cause will be in danger of judgment." And, "It has been said, You shall not swear falsely. But I tell you, Do not swear at all; but… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 7–11*

7 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 42 (1885 English) **Quotes 2, 3, pages 2, 3** "other pledging, and assuring him on oath that he would find forgiveness for himself from the Saviour, beseeching and falling on his knees, and kissing his right hand itself, as… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 40 (1885 English; on point 1) "do you wish to get forgiveness? steal no more… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 42 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "And that you may be still more confident, that repenting thus truly there remains for you a sure hope of salvation, listen to a tale, which is not a tale… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Stromata* 7.8 **Quote 7, page 4** Gnostic speaks truthfully under oath, but he is not inclined to swear, and he rarely uses an oath, as we have said. When he speaks truth under oath, it comes… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Stromata* 7.8 (on point 5) "he does not swear at all. Instead, he prefers to make a simple statement, saying yes when he affirms and no when he denies. For to swear an oath is… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 12*

12 *Against Marcion* 26 (1885 English; on point 4) “it was not a vain oath for him to swear that there was no other God… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 13*

13 *Epistles* (on point 1) is to close off and cut off the way of grief and repentance. So, while throughout all Scripture the Lord God comforts those who return to Him and repent, repentance… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 14–16*

14 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 5, page 4** “to continue in their goodness. Receive those who repent, for the Lord God has promised with an oath to grant forgiveness to those who repent for the wrong things they… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) who made a law for swearing rightly and… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) Master commanded us not to swear even by the true God, so that our word might be firmer than an oath, and not by heaven itself, because that is a… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 17*

17 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 4, page 3** “the Lord of all things has himself declared with an oath regarding… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *109 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

18 **Genesis 15:8** He said, “O Master and Lord, how shall I know that I shall inherit it?” **read ›**

19 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

20 **Exodus 22:1** And if anyone steals a calf or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall repay five calves for the calf and four sheep for the sheep. (Septuagint Exodus 21:37) **read ›**

21 **Exodus 22:7** And if anyone gives his neighbor money or goods to keep, and they are stolen out of the man’s house, if the thief is found, he shall repay double. (Septuagint Exodus 22:6) **read ›**

22 **Exodus 22:10** And if anyone gives his neighbor a beast of burden, or a calf, or a sheep, or any beast to keep, and it is injured or dies or is carried off, and no one knows, (Septuagint Exodus 22:9) **read ›**

23 **Exodus 22:11** an oath of God shall be between them both, that he has truly done no wrong at all with his neighbor’s deposit; and so its owner shall accept it, and he shall not pay for the loss. (Septuagint Exodus 22:10) **read ›**

24 **Leviticus 5:4** The lawless person who resolves with his lips to do evil or to do good, in any matter that a man may resolve with an oath, and it is hidden from his eyes, and then he knows it and sins in any one of these things, **read ›**

25 **Leviticus 6:4** then it shall be, whenever he has sinned and trespassed, that he shall give back the plunder which he seized, or what he took by wrongdoing, or the deposit which was entrusted to him, or the lost thing which he found, (Septuagint Leviticus 5:23) **read ›**

26 **Leviticus 6:5** of anything about which he swore unjustly; he shall repay it in full, and add the fifth part to it; he shall give it back to the one to whom it belongs on the day he is convicted. (Septuagint Leviticus 5:24) **read ›**

27 **Numbers 5:7** shall confess the sin that he has committed, and shall repay what he owes for the wrong: he shall repay the principal and add its fifth part to it, and shall repay it to the one against whom he trespassed. **read ›**

28 **Deuteronomy 24:11** You shall stand outside, and the man who owes you the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. **read ›**

29 **Deuteronomy 24:13** You shall surely return his pledge to him at sunset, so that he may sleep in his garment and bless you; and it shall be an act of mercy for you before the Lord your God. **read ›**

30 **Joshua 2:12** Now therefore swear to me by the Lord God—since I am showing you mercy—and you also show mercy to my father’s house, **read ›**

31 **1 Samuel 15:25** Now, please take away my sin, and turn back with me, and I will worship the Lord your God.” (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 15:25) **read ›**

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32 **2 Samuel 12:4** Then a traveler came to the rich man, and the rich man was unwilling to take from his own flocks and from his own herds to prepare for the stranger who had come to him on his journey; but he took the poor man's female lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." (Septuagint 2 Kingdoms 12:4) **read ›**

33 **1 Kings 8:31** If a man commits any sin against his neighbor, and he takes an oath upon himself that puts him under a curse, and he comes and confesses before your altar in this house, (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 8:31) **read ›**

34 **1 Kings 8:47** and they turn their hearts in the land to which they were carried away, and turn back in the land of their exile, and plead with you, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done unrighteously, we have acted lawlessly,' (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 8:47) **read ›**

35 **2 Kings 10:15** When he went on from there, he found Jonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him, and he blessed him. And Jehu said to him, "Is your heart upright with my heart, as my heart is with your heart?" And Jonadab said, "It is." And Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." And he gave him his hand, and he took him up with him into the chariot, (Septuagint 4 Kingdoms 10:15) **read ›**

36 **2 Chronicles 6:22** If a man sins against his neighbor, and he lays on him an oath of cursing to make him swear, and he comes and swears before the altar in this house, **read ›**

37 **2 Chronicles 6:37** and they turn their heart in their land to which they were carried away, and also turn and plead with you in their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have acted lawlessly, we have done unrighteously,' **read ›**

38 **Nehemiah 5:12** They said, "We will give it back, and we will demand nothing from them; we will do just as you say." Then I called the priests and made them swear to do according to this word. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 15:12) **read ›**

39 **Job 6:29** Sit down, then, and let there be no unrighteousness, and come together again with the righteous. **read ›**

40 **Proverbs 6:31** but if he is caught, he will repay sevenfold, and he will deliver himself by giving all that he has. **read ›**

41 **Proverbs 7:24** Now then, son, hear me, and attend to the words of my mouth. **read ›**

42 **Ecclesiastes 9:13** This also I saw as wisdom under the sun, and it is great in my sight: **read ›**

43 **Jeremiah 4:1** If Israel returns to me, says the Lord, he shall return; and if he removes his abominations from his mouth, and is reverent before my face, **read ›**

44 **Jeremiah 15:19** Therefore thus says the Lord: If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before my face; and if you bring out the precious from the worthless, you shall be as my mouth; and they shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. **read ›**

45 **Jeremiah 36:21** The king sent Jehudi to take the scroll; and he took it from the house of Elishama, and Jehudi read it in the ears of the king and in the ears of all the rulers who stood around the king. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:21) **read ›**

46 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

47 **Lamentations 1:8** Heth. Jerusalem has sinned a sin; therefore she has become a thing tossed about; all who honored her have humbled her, for they have seen her shame; and she herself groaned and turned backward. **read ›**

48 **Lamentations 1:13** Mem. From his height he has sent fire; into my bones he has brought it down; he has spread a net for my feet; he has turned me back; he has made me desolate, in pain all the day. **read ›**

49 **Ezekiel 17:2** "Son of man, tell a tale and speak a parable to the house of Israel, **read ›**

50 **Ezekiel 33:15** and gives back the pledge, and repays what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life so as not to do wrong, he shall surely live and shall by no means die. **read ›**

51 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

52 **Hosea 14:2** Take words with you and return to the Lord your God. Say to him, so that you may not receive unrighteousness, but receive good things: "And we will repay the fruit of our lips. (Septuagint Hosea 14:3) **read ›**

53 **Amos 5:3** Therefore thus says the Lord God: The city out of which a thousand went forth, a hundred shall be left; and out of which a hundred went forth, ten shall be left to the house of Israel. **read ›**

54 **Micah 7:3** they ready their hands for evil; the ruler asks, and the judge has spoken peaceful words; it is the desire of his soul; **read ›**

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55 **Zechariah 5:4** And I will bring it out, says the Lord Almighty, and it shall enter into the house of the thief and into the house of him who swears falsely by my name, and it shall stay in the midst of his house and destroy it, its timber and its stones." **read ›**

56 **1 Esdras 8:93** In this let an oath be made by us to the Lord, to put away all our wives who are from the foreigners, with their children, **read ›**

57 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:3** They will say to themselves, repenting, and groaning in anguish of spirit: "This is the one whom we once laughed at and made a proverb of taunting— **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:3** A rich man does wrong, and he even adds threats; a poor man is wronged, and he must even plead. **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:22** When a rich man slips, his helpers are many; he speaks things not to be spoken, and they justify him; a lowly man slips, and they rebuke him besides; he speaks with understanding, and no place is given him. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Sirach 13:24** Wealth is good to one who has no sin, and poverty is evil in the mouth of the ungodly. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:13** Do not accustom your mouth to coarse vulgarity, for in it is the word of sin. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

68 **Baruch 1:5** And they wept and fasted and prayed before the Lord. **read ›**

69 **Baruch 2:33** and they will turn back from their stiff back and from their evil statutes, for they will remember the way of their fathers who sinned before the Lord. **read ›**

70 **Susanna 1:46** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

71 **Susanna 1:49** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

72 **1 Maccabees 7:24** and he went out into all the borders of Judea all around and took vengeance on the men who had deserted, and they were kept from going out into the country. **read ›**

73 **1 Maccabees 9:38** And they remembered John their brother, and went up and hid under the cover of the mountain. **read ›**

74 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

75 **2 Maccabees 9:13** Then the vile man prayed to the Master, who would no longer have mercy on him, saying **read ›**

76 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

77 **2 Maccabees 13:10** When Judas learned of this, he ordered the multitude to call upon the Lord day and night, that now, if ever before, he would help those who were about to be deprived of the Law and their country and the holy temple, **read ›**

78 **2 Maccabees 13:12** When they had all done this together and had pleaded with the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying facedown for three days without ceasing, Judas encouraged them and ordered them to stand ready. **read ›**

79 **2 Maccabees 14:33** he stretched out his right hand toward the temple and swore this oath: "If you do not hand Judas over to me as a prisoner, I will level this sacred enclosure of God to the ground, tear down the altar, and raise up here a splendid temple to Dionysus." **read ›**

80 **3 Maccabees 5:51** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **4 Maccabees 4:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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82 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
83 **1 Enoch 1:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
84 **1 Enoch 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
85 **1 Enoch 6:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
86 **1 Enoch 13:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
87 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
88 **1 Enoch 65:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
89 **1 Enoch 94:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
90 **1 Enoch 95:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
91 **1 Enoch 96:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
92 **1 Enoch 98:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
93 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**
94 **Matthew 5:33** “Again you have heard that it was said to the people of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord your oaths,’ **read ›**
95 **Matthew 21:32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. When you saw it, you did not even repent afterward, that you might believe him. **read ›**
96 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**
97 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**
98 **Mark 10:21** Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me, taking up the cross.” **read ›**
99 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**
100 **Luke 5:3** He entered into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. **read ›**
101 **Luke 10:30** Jesus answered, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. **read ›**
102 **Luke 16:1** He also said to his disciples, “There was a certain rich man who had a steward. An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions. **read ›**
103 **Luke 16:19** Now there was a certain rich man, and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, living in luxury every day. **read ›**
104 **Luke 16:30** He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **read ›**
105 **Luke 18:22** When Jesus heard these things, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” **read ›**
106 **Luke 18:23** But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was very rich. **read ›**
107 **Luke 18:24** Jesus, seeing that he became very sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter into God’s kingdom! **read ›**
108 **Luke 19:8** Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor; and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I restore it fourfold.” **read ›**
109 **Luke 24:47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **read ›**
110 **John 3:23** John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim because there was much water there. People came and were baptized; **read ›**
111 **John 12:6** Now he said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having the money box, used to steal what was put into it. **read ›**
112 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

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113 **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **read ›**

114 **Acts 8:22** Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to God that perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **read ›**

115 **Acts 13:24** after John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to Israel before Jesus' coming. **read ›**

116 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." **read ›**

117 **Acts 20:21** testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faithfulness toward our Lord Jesus. **read ›**

118 **Acts 26:20** but declared first to them of Damascus, at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance. **read ›**

119 **Romans 2:19** and are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, **read ›**

120 **Romans 5:5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **read ›**

121 **Romans 7:2** For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. **read ›**

122 **Romans 11:15** For if the rejection of them is the reconciling of the world, what would their acceptance be, but life from the dead? **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 1:5** that in everything you were enriched in him, in all speech and all knowledge, **read ›**

124 **2 Corinthians 5:21** For he made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **read ›**

125 **Revelation 2:5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you quickly, and will move your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent. **read ›**

126 **Revelation 3:3** Remember therefore how you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I shall come upon you as a thief, and you will not know at what hour I shall come upon you. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *41 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Psalms 44:21

Isaiah 1:16

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:19 · 5:22 · 5:34 · 5:38 · 5:43 · 7:21 · 17:5 · 18:19 · 19:17 · 23:16 · 28:18

Mark 12:30

Luke 2:51 · 13:26 · 15:7

John 2:19 · 4:13 · 10:30 · 13:14 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 18:23 · 20:21

Acts 20:35

Romans 1:25 · 1:28

1 Corinthians 5:11 · 16:13

2 Corinthians 2:10

Ephesians 4:29 · 5:6

Colossians 3:5

1 Peter 3:21 · 5:8

1 John 2:19

Revelation 2:23

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “In Clement's story, why did the apostle John swear an oath to the robber?” on May 9, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “In Clement's story, why did the apostle John swear an oath to the robber?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/in-clements-story-why-did-the-apostle-john-swear-an-oath-to-the-robber. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 9.”

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THE END OF THIS STUDY