THE QUESTION

What did Jesus say about defending yourself?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 34 early Christian passages and 277 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-jesus-say-about-defending-yourself

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Jesus told His followers not to resist an evil person but to turn the other cheek, love their enemies, and pray for those who harm them. When Peter used a sword to defend Him, Jesus told him to put it away. The early Christians taught believers to endure injury patiently and let the Lord defend them.

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.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Jesus replaced eye for eye with patience

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

In Tatian's Gospel harmony, Jesus quotes the old rule of equal payback and then gives a new command. His followers are not to stand against the one who does evil, but to turn the other cheek.

1 “But I say to you, do not stand in opposition to evil. But whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 9 (c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 10, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 8

Jesus told Peter to put away his sword

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

When Peter struck the high priest's servant to protect Jesus, Jesus stopped him. He warned that those who take the sword die by it, and He healed the wounded man.

2 “Put the sword into its sheath, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword.”

later in the same passage

“And He touched the ear of the man who was struck and healed it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 48 (c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 8, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 8

Jesus tied the swords to a prophecy

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

Before His arrest, Jesus told the disciples to buy a sword. In the same breath He links His words to the scripture that He would be counted with lawbreakers, and He says two swords are enough. When the crowd then came to take Him, He forbade Peter to use one.

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3 “For I say to you that this scripture also must be fulfilled in me: that I should be counted with the transgressors.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 46 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Love and pray for those who harm you

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

Jesus goes further than not striking back. He tells His followers to love enemies and pray even for those who use violence against them. Athenagoras points to this teaching as something no philosopher had truly lived.

4 “But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who curse you, and do well to those who hate you, and pray for those who take you with violence and persecute you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 9 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

5 “For which of those who construct syllogisms, clear up ambiguities, explain etymologies, or teach homonyms and synonyms, predicaments and axioms, and what is the subject and what is the predicate, and who promise by these and similar lessons to make their students happy—which of them has so cleansed his soul that, instead of hating his enemies, he loves them?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Athenagoras,** *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (c. 170–190 AD) **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Early Christians read Jesus as forbidding retaliation

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

Irenaeus sums up Jesus' teaching as not striking others and offering the other cheek when struck. The Apostolic Constitutions repeats the command and explains that patience is the more honorable path.

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6 “They were told not only not to strike, but even, when they themselves were struck, to offer the other cheek to those who mistreated them; and not only not to refuse to give up the property of others, but even if their own were taken, not to demand it back from those who took it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book II* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “If anyone strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. Not that revenge is evil, but that patience is more honorable.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 28, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Let the Lord be your defender

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

The Apostolic Constitutions links Jesus' command with Proverbs. A believer who is wronged should not pay it back but wait quietly, trusting the Lord to defend him and to deal with the wrongdoer.

8 “When you are injured, do not take revenge, but endure it with patience.”

later in the same passage

“For Scripture says this: “Do not say, I will avenge myself on my enemy for the wrongs he has done to me. Instead, accept them quietly, so that the Lord may defend you and bring vengeance on the one who injures you.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 29, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Patience makes us like our Father

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

Cyprian reads Jesus' words about loving enemies as a call to share God's own character. The gentle and patient believer copies the Father, who sends sun and rain on good and evil alike.

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9 "And so that we may understand more fully, beloved brothers, that patience is something of God, and that whoever is gentle, patient, and meek is an imitator of God the Father: when the Lord in His Gospel was giving commands for salvation, and teaching His disciples toward perfection by setting forth divine warnings, He declared and said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 25, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

The same God speaks in both Testaments

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

Origen answers a critic who said Jesus contradicted the Law. He shows that Lamentations already speaks of giving the cheek to the striker, so this teaching comes from the same God.

10 "There is no disagreement, then, between the God of the Gospel and the God of the law, even when we take literally the command about a blow on the face."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 25 (c. 215–254 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 23, page 7 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- No writer here explains why Jesus told the disciples to buy a sword.
- These passages do not directly address defending family or neighbors from an attacker.
- 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.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 34 early Christian passages and 277 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–34, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 35–151, in Bible order), then 160 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages

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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 *34 passages from 14 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (on point 5) "There is a great difference between these two ways. The way of life is this. First, you shall love God who made you. Second, you shall love your neighbor as… [continues online] **read ›**

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to Diognetus* (1885 English; on point 7) will be an imitator of His kindness. And do not wonder that a man may become an imitator of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 4) potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 5) "rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing," or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but being mindful of what the Lord said in His teaching: "Judge not, that… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 4) "even fornicators do this. But I say unto you, Pray for your enemies, and love them that hate you, and bless them that curse you, and pray for them that… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 4) "all of us pray for you, and for all men, as our Christ and Lord taught us to do, when He enjoined us to pray even for our enemies, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 7–10*

7 *Diatessaron* 9 **Quote 4, page 3** 5:43 You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Diatessaron* 48 **Quote 2, page 2** "His disciples saw what was happening, they said, "Our Lord, shall we strike them with swords?" And Simon Cephas had a sword. He drew it, struck the servant of the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 46 **Quote 3, page 3** "22:38 His disciples said to him, "Our Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Diatessaron* 9 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "whosoever smites you on your right 8 cheek, turn to him also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · sources 11–12*

11 *A Plea for the Christians* 11 **Quote 5, page 3** "to think of us as atheists. What, then, are the teachings in which we are raised? I say to you, "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *A Plea for the Christians* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) "we have learned, not only not to return blow for blow, nor to go to law with those who plunder and rob us, but to those who smite us on… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 13*

13 *Against Heresies: Book II* **Quote 6, page 4** "not only not to refuse to give up the property of others, but even if their own were… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 14–17*

14 *Stromata* 4.16 (on point 4) is clearly described. It is fulfilled both in action and in contemplation. Therefore we must bless those who persecute us. "Bless, and do not curse." Romans 12:14. For this… [continues online] **read ›**

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15 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 (1885 English; on point 5) “as we delight in sweet things, and prize them higher for the agreeableness of the pleasure they yield, while, on the other hand, those bitter things which are distasteful to… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Stromata* 4.14 (1885 English; on point 4) “great also is benignity! Love your enemies, it is said, bless them who curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you, Matthew 5:44-45 and the like… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 4) “now He bids us love our enemies, bless them that curse us, and pray for them that despitefully use us… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Against Marcion* 15 (1885 English; on point 5) “which, so far from keeping the coat, is to give up the cloak also — is laid upon me by one who means not to help me —(then all I can… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *De Corona* 11 (1885 English; on point 2) “it be held lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord proclaims that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *On Patience* 8 (1885 English; on point 5) “one attempt to provoke you by manual violence, the monition of the Lord is at hand: To him, He says, who smites you on the face, turn the other cheek… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *On Idolatry* 21 (on point 4) to the command, he should not return a curse even in the name of God, but should graciously bless in the name of God, so that you may both tear… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 22–24*

22 *Against Celsus* 10 (1885 English; on point 2) “even to Him who wished to help Him, and who smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear, He said: Put up your sword into its sheath… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Against Celsus* 25 **Quote 10, page 5** “then quotes from the Gospel the command, "To the one who strikes you once, offer yourself to be struck again," although he does not give any passage from the Old… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Against Celsus* 41 (on point 4) “we insult no one, for we believe that revilers will not inherit the kingdom of God. And we read, “Bless those who curse you; bless, and do not curse”; also… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 25–27*

25 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Treatises* (on point 5) “goods back when they are taken from you. When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you. You should forgive… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 7) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 28–30*

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 7, page 4** “first way, therefore, is the way of life, and it is this, which the law also commands: Love the Lord God with all your mind and with all your soul… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 8, page 4** “if anyone curses you, bless him. For it is written in the book of Numbers: “He who blesses you is blessed, and he who curses you is cursed.” Numbers 24… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) as if just revenge were an unrighteous thing, but because long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 31–33*

31 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “that our Lord bade us offer the other cheek also to him who smote the one… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 8) and satisfying demonstration he gave. He showed that there is a mutual relationship between the two Testaments, and also between the two laws. Discovering more arguments for himself, he was… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “as to His injunction, that a man, when struck on the one cheek, should offer the other also, that is the expression of goodness… [continues online] **read ›**

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Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · source 34*

34 *Canonical Epistle* time of His passion drew near, He did not give Himself up, but waited until they came to Him with swords and clubs. Therefore He said to them, "Have you… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *117 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

35 **Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed." **read ›**

36 **Genesis 26:29** that you will do us no harm, since we did not detest you, and just as we treated you well and sent you away in peace. And now you are blessed by the Lord." **read ›**

37 **Genesis 27:29** Let nations serve you, and let rulers bow down to you. Be lord over your brother, and the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Cursed is the one who curses you, and blessed is the one who blesses you." **read ›**

38 **Genesis 27:40** By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother. But there shall be a time when you shall pull down and loosen his yoke from your neck." **read ›**

39 **Exodus 20:15** You shall not steal. (Septuagint Exodus 20:14 (Exodus 20:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

40 **Exodus 21:24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **read ›**

41 **Exodus 21:25** burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 19:18** Your hand shall not take vengeance, and you shall not bear a grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 24:20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has injured the man, so it shall be done to him. **read ›**

44 **Deuteronomy 5:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

45 **Deuteronomy 19:21** Your eye shall not spare him: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. **read ›**

46 **Deuteronomy 30:7** And the Lord your God shall put these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **read ›**

47 **Deuteronomy 32:25** Outside, the sword shall leave them childless, and terror from the inner rooms; the young man with the virgin, the nursing child with the aged man. **read ›**

48 **Joshua 5:13** When Jesus was at Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and saw a man standing before him, with his sword drawn in his hand. And Jesus went up to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” **read ›**

49 **Judges 3:16** Ehud made himself a two-edged dagger a span in length, and he strapped it on under his cloak on his right thigh. **read ›**

50 **1 Samuel 21:8** And David said to Abimelech, “See whether there is a spear or a sword here under your hand, for I have not brought my sword or my equipment with me, because the king’s business was urgent.” (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:9 (1 Samuel 21:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

51 **1 Samuel 21:9** The priest said, “Behold, the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah; it is wrapped in a cloak. If you will take it, take it for yourself, for there is no other here except this one.” And David said, “See, there is none like it; give it to me.” (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:10 (1 Samuel 21:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

52 **1 Samuel 21:10** So he gave it to him. And David arose and fled that day from Saul, and David came to Achish king of Gath. (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:11 (1 Samuel 21:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

53 **1 Samuel 24:20** And now, behold, I know that you shall surely reign, and the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 24:21 (1 Samuel 24:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

54 **1 Samuel 25:13** And David said to his men, “Every man strap on his sword.” And they went up after David, about four hundred men; and two hundred stayed with the baggage. **read ›**

55 **1 Kings 3:24** And the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought the sword before the king. **read ›**

56 **1 Chronicles 21:27** And the Lord spoke to the angel; and he put the sword back into its sheath. **read ›**

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57 **Ezra 4:23** Then the tribute collector of King Artaxerxes read it before Rehum the baltam and Shimshai the scribe and his fellow slaves; and they went in haste to Jerusalem and into Judah and stopped them with horses and force. **read ›**

58 **Esther 8:11** in which he commanded them to use their own laws in every city, and to come to their own aid, and to deal with their opponents and those who attacked them as they wished, **read ›**

59 **Job 6:8** Oh, that he would grant it, and that my request might come, and that the Lord would grant my hope! **read ›**

60 **Job 19:29** then you also beware of deceit, for anger will come upon the lawless; and then they shall know where their substance is." **read ›**

61 **Job 36:12** But he does not save the ungodly, because they are not willing to know the Lord, and because when corrected they would not listen. **read ›**

62 **Psalms 37:15** May their sword enter into their own heart, and may their bows be broken. (Septuagint Psalm 36:15 (Psalm 37:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Proverbs 3:11** Son, do not make light of the discipline of the Lord, nor lose heart when you are rebuked by him; **read ›**

64 **Proverbs 3:12** for whom the Lord loves he rebukes, and he whips every son whom he receives. **read ›**

65 **Proverbs 4:8** Fortify her, and she will exalt you; honor her, that she may embrace you, **read ›**

66 **Proverbs 15:18** A hot-tempered man prepares quarrels, but he who is slow to anger calms even one that is coming. A man slow to anger will quench disputes, but the ungodly man rather stirs them up. **read ›**

67 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 3:25** And your most beautiful son, whom you love, shall fall by the sword; and your mighty men shall fall by the sword, and they shall be brought low. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 16:13** And I will cast you out of this land into the land that neither you nor your fathers knew; and there you will serve other gods, who will show you no mercy. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 33:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 34:2** "Thus said the Lord: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, 'Thus said the Lord: This city shall surely be handed over into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it and burn it with fire; (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:2 (Jeremiah 34:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 34:3** and you shall by no means escape from his hand, but you shall surely be taken and given into his hands; and your eyes shall see his eyes, and you shall go into Babylon.' (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:3 (Jeremiah 34:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 36:8** Baruch did according to all that Jeremiah commanded him, reading in the book the words of the Lord in the house of the Lord. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:8 (Jeremiah 36:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 36:22** The king was sitting in the winter house, and a brazier of fire was before him. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:22 (Jeremiah 36:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Jeremiah 44:4** And I sent to you my servants the prophets early in the morning, and I sent, saying, Do not do this defiling thing, which I have hated. (Septuagint Jeremiah 51:4 (Jeremiah 44:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

76 **Jeremiah 47:6** How long will you cut, O sword of the Lord? How long will you not be quiet? Go back into your sheath; rest, and be lifted up. (Septuagint Jeremiah 29:6 (Jeremiah 47:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

77 **Lamentations 3:30** Yod. He will give his cheek to the one who strikes him; he will be filled with taunts. **read ›**

78 **Ezekiel 11:8** You fear the sword, and I will bring a sword upon you, says the Lord. **read ›**

79 **Ezekiel 20:24** because they did not do my ordinances, and rejected my statutes, and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were after the imaginations of their fathers. **read ›**

80 **Ezekiel 21:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **Daniel 9:8** In you, O Lord, is our righteousness, and to us belongs shame of face—to our kings and to our rulers and to our fathers—for we have sinned. **read ›**

82 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

83 **Habakkuk 2:8** Because you have plundered many nations, all the peoples who are left will plunder you, because of the blood of men, and the ungodliness of the land and the city and all who dwell in it. **read ›**

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84 **1 Esdras 4:23** And a man takes his sword and goes out to travel and to rob and to steal, and to sail on the sea and on rivers; **read ›**

85 **Judith 6:8** and you shall not perish until you are utterly destroyed with them. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:18** For if the righteous man is a son of God, God will help him, and deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:22** So while disciplining us, you whip our enemies ten thousand times more, so that when we judge, we may ponder your goodness, and when we are judged, we may expect mercy. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:1** Do no evil, and evil will certainly not overtake you. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:11** Do not rise up from the presence of an arrogant man, lest he sit like an ambush for your mouth. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:6** Do not bear a grudge against your neighbor for every wrong, and do nothing at all by deeds of arrogance. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:2** Do good to a godly man, and you will find a reward, if not from him, then from the Most High. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:5** Do good to the lowly, and do not give to the ungodly; hold back his bread, and do not give it to him, lest by it he overpower you; for you will find twice as much evil for all the good you do him. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:7** Give to the good man, and do not help the sinner. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:13** Before you die, do good to a friend, and according to your strength reach out and give to him. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 22:21** If you have drawn a sword against a friend, do not despair, for there is a way back. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:8** Keep away from quarrels, and you will lessen sins, for a hot-tempered man will kindle a quarrel. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:18** Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not as many as those who have fallen because of the tongue. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:24** See that you fence your property with thorns; bind up your silver and your gold; **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:10** Lose your silver for a brother and a friend, and do not let it rust under the stone to be lost. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:13** It will fight for you against the enemy, better than a mighty shield and better than a strong spear. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:20** Help your neighbor as far as you are able, and be careful that you do not fall. **read ›**

103 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:15** He has a dagger in his right hand, and an axe; but he will not deliver himself from war and robbers. **read ›**

104 **1 Maccabees 3:11** When Judas learned of it, he went out to meet him, and he struck him and killed him; and many fell slain, and the rest fled. **read ›**

105 **1 Maccabees 3:12** He took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and he fought with it all his days. **read ›**

106 **1 Maccabees 4:8** But Judas said to the men who were with him, “Do not fear their multitude, and do not lose heart at their onslaught. **read ›**

107 **1 Maccabees 7:29** And he came to Judas, and they greeted one another peacefully; but the enemy were ready to seize Judas. **read ›**

108 **1 Maccabees 15:18** They brought a gold shield weighing a thousand minas. **read ›**

109 **2 Maccabees 5:25** When he arrived at Jerusalem, he pretended to be peaceful and waited until the holy day of the Sabbath; then, finding the Jews resting from work, he ordered his troops to parade under arms. **read ›**

110 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers.” **read ›**

111 **2 Maccabees 12:22** But when Judas’ first company appeared, terror came upon the enemy, and fear from the manifestation of him who sees all things came upon them; they rushed into flight, carried this way and that, so that they were often hurt by their own men and pierced by the points of the swords. **read ›**

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112 **2 Maccabees 12:36** As those with Esdris had been fighting for a long time and were worn out, Judas called upon the Lord to show himself their ally and leader in the battle. **read ›**

113 **2 Maccabees 14:22** Judas posted armed men in readiness at key places, lest some treachery should suddenly come from the enemy; and they held a fitting conference. **read ›**

114 **2 Maccabees 14:41** When the troops were about to take the tower and were forcing the door of the courtyard, and were ordering fire to be brought and the doors to be set alight, being surrounded, he fell upon his sword, **read ›**

115 **2 Maccabees 15:15** And Jeremiah stretched out his right hand and handed Judas a golden sword, and as he gave it he addressed him thus: **read ›**

116 **2 Maccabees 15:16** “Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries.” **read ›**

117 **2 Maccabees 15:26** but those with Judas met the enemy with invocation and prayers. **read ›**

118 **4 Maccabees 8:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **1 Enoch 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **1 Enoch 95:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **Matthew 5:38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ **read ›**

123 **Matthew 5:39** But I tell you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. **read ›**

124 **Matthew 5:40** If anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **read ›**

125 **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **read ›**

126 **Matthew 5:44** But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, **read ›**

127 **Matthew 26:51** Behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **read ›**

128 **Matthew 26:52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all those who take the sword will die by the sword. **read ›**

129 **Matthew 26:55** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me as though I were a robber? I sat with you daily, teaching in the temple, and you did not arrest me. **read ›**

130 **Mark 14:48** Jesus answered them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? **read ›**

131 **Luke 6:27** But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **read ›**

132 **Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. **read ›**

133 **Luke 6:29** To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. **read ›**

134 **Luke 6:33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **read ›**

135 **Luke 6:35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil. **read ›**

136 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

137 **Luke 22:36** Then he said to them, “But now, let him who has a money bag take it, and likewise a bag; and he who has none shall sell his cloak and buy a sword. **read ›**

138 **Luke 22:38** They said, “Lord, behold, here are two swords.” He said to them, “That is enough.” **read ›**

139 **Luke 22:49** When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” **read ›**

140 **Luke 22:52** Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders, who had come against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? **read ›**

141 **John 18:10** Simon Peter therefore, having a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. **read ›**

142 **John 18:11** Jesus therefore said to Peter, “Put the sword into its sheath. The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?” **read ›**

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143 **Acts 1:20** “For it is written in the book of Psalms: Let his dwelling be made desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it; and: Let another take his office of overseer. **read ›**

144 **Acts 3:25** You are the children of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ **read ›**

145 **Acts 13:15** After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak.” **read ›**

146 **Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. **read ›**

147 **Romans 12:21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **read ›**

148 **Galatians 1:15** But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, **read ›**

149 **Ephesians 5:1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. **read ›**

150 **1 Peter 2:23** who, when reviled, did not revile in return; when suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted himself to him who judges righteously; **read ›**

151 **1 Peter 3:9** not repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this so that you might inherit a blessing. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *160 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.

Genesis 6:1 · 9:5

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4 · 8:2 · 27:3 · 38:5 · 82:6 · 137:1

Proverbs 1:7 · 2:16

Song of Solomon 2:1

Isaiah 10:23 · 45:1

Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Daniel 12:2

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:11 · 5:17 · 5:22 · 5:25 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 5:33 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 6:20 · 6:25 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 9:13 · 10:10 · 11:12 · 12:36 · 19:3 · 19:12 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:27 · 25:33 · 26:61 · 27:5

Mark 2:11 · 2:19 · 7:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:41

Luke 2:51 · 6:1 · 6:20 · 6:22 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 12:23 · 14:33 · 16:9 · 16:16 · 16:18

John 1:16 · 3:18 · 4:16 · 5:45 · 8:26 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:33 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 18:4 · 18:6

Acts 1:18 · 7:60 · 10:14 · 17:31 · 20:35

Romans 2:28 · 2:29 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 8:11 · 8:38 · 9:28 · 10:10 · 12:3 · 12:19 · 13:14 · 15:29

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 1:24 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:10 · 6:14 · 7:10 · 7:18 · 8:6 · 10:26 · 15:46 · 15:53

2 Corinthians 1:12 · 3:6 · 3:7 · 3:14 · 4:14 · 13:3

Galatians 1:1 · 1:8 · 2:18 · 3:13 · 3:24

Ephesians 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16 · 4:11

1 Timothy 2:2 · 4:12 · 6:10

2 Timothy 3:8

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Hebrews 4:15 · 10:30 · 10:32 · 10:33 · 10:39 · 11:26 · 11:36 · 12:1 · 13:20

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 2:17 · 3:13 · 3:22

1 John 3:18 · 4:16

Revelation 21:6

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did Jesus say about defending yourself?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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