THE QUESTION

# What did Jesus say about self-defense?

*Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 25 early Christian passages and 196 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-self-defense

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

Jesus told His followers not to strike back: to turn the other cheek, love their enemies, and pray for those who hurt them. When Peter drew a sword to defend Him, Jesus told him to put it away. Early writers read this as a call to patient non-retaliation, though these passages do not settle every case of protecting others.

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| **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 6

## Jesus said to turn the other cheek

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

In Tatian's second-century Gospel harmony, Jesus sets aside the old rule of eye for eye and tells the one who is struck to turn the other cheek. The Didache, one of the earliest Christian handbooks, repeats the same command as part of the way of life for every believer.

**1** “You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." 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) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**2** “If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 2 OF 6

## He commanded love and prayer for enemies

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

Athenagoras, writing to the emperors in the second century, sums up what Christians are raised on: love enemies, bless those who curse, pray for persecutors. Theophilus of Antioch quotes the same Gospel command. Both present love, not getting even, as the Christian answer to people who mistreat us.

**3** “I say to you, "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven, who makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.""

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Athenagoras,** *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (c. 170–190 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

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**4** “And the Gospel says: "Love your enemies, and pray for those who despitefully use you. For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? This also the robbers and the tax collectors do."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 14 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 10, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 3 OF 6

## Christ forbade paying back harm for harm

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

Tertullian reports an objection that Christ clearly forbids the payback the Creator allowed and commands offering the other cheek; he answers that these are additions by Christ that fit the Creator's teaching. Cyprian lists the same duties: do not demand back what is taken, offer the other cheek, love enemies, pray for persecutors. He says only patience and endurance make this possible.

**5** “But, someone may say, Christ clearly teaches a new kind of patience, when He actually forbids the reprisals that the Creator permitted in requiring "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," Exodus 21:24 and instead commands us, to him who strikes us on one cheek, to offer the other also, and to give up our coat to him who takes away our cloak.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 15 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**6** “You should not demand your 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.”

*later in the same passage*

“You should love your enemies. You should pray for your adversaries and persecutors. Can you do these things unless you keep the firmness of patience and endurance?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 20, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

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POINT 4 OF 6

## Jesus also spoke of buying a sword

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

On the night of His arrest, Jesus told the disciples that whoever lacked a sword should sell his garment and buy one. When they showed Him two swords, He said they were enough and led them out. He does not say here what the swords were for, so this saying should be read with what happened next in the garden.

7

“He said to them, "From now on, whoever has a purse, let him take it, and likewise a wallet also. And whoever does not have a sword should sell his garment and buy a sword for himself."”

*later in the same passage*

“His disciples said to him, "Our Lord, look, here are two swords." He said to them, "They are sufficient. Arise, let us go from here."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 46 (c. 150–180 AD)
*THF's updated English*

**Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 5 OF 6

## He told Peter to put away the sword

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

When the disciples asked whether to strike, Peter cut off a servant's ear to defend Jesus. Jesus told him to sheathe the sword, warned that those who take the sword die by it, said He could have asked the Father for angels, and healed the wounded man. Jesus stopped the blow even though Peter was acting to defend Him.

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**8**

“When 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 chief priest, and cut off his right ear.”

*later in the same passage*

“Jesus said to Cephas, "The cup that my Father has given Me, shall I not drink it? Put the sword into its sheath, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword. Do you think that I am not able to ask My Father, and He will now send Me more than twelve tribes of angels? Then how should the Scriptures that were spoken be fulfilled, that it must be so?"”

*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 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›

POINT 6 OF 6

## Persecuted believers were sheep, not fighting soldiers

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

Tertullian applies a prophecy about sheep to Christians killed for their faith. He says the name does not fit those who meet force with force, but only those who give themselves up with patience rather than fighting back in self-defense. His subject is persecution, so this does not settle every kind of danger.

**9**

“No one calls those who fall in battle with weapons in hand, while meeting force with force, "sheep." That name is given only to those who are killed while surrendering themselves in their appointed duty and with patience, rather than fighting back in self-defense.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 38 (c. 196–220 AD)
*THF's updated English*

**Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

## What these passages don’t tell us

- No passage here explains why Jesus told the disciples to buy swords before His arrest.
- These passages do not settle whether a Christian may use force to protect a family member or a stranger from attack.
- Tertullian's words about sheep concern believers killed for their faith, not every kind of danger in daily life.

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- 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 25 early Christian passages and 196 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–25, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 26–133, in Bible order), then 88 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 *25 passages from 12 writers*

**Didache**, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

**1** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** "life is this. First, you shall love God who made you. Second, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. And whatever you would not want to happen to you, do… [continues online] **read ›**

**Polycarp**, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 2–3*

**2** *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 3) "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 ›**

**3** *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 2) potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you… [continues online] **read ›**

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

**4** *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 2) "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 ›**

**Tatian**, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 5–9*

**5** *Diatessaron* 49 I said." John 18:22: When he said that, one of the soldiers standing there struck Jesus on the cheek and said to him, "Do you answer the chief priest… [continues online] **read ›**

**6** *Diatessaron* 9 (on point 2) 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 ›**

**7** *Diatessaron* 46 **Quote 7, page 4** "22:38 His disciples said to him, "Our Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

**8** *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 ›**

**9** *Diatessaron* 48 **Quote 8, page 5** "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 ›**

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**Theophilus of Antioch**, *c. 169–183 AD · source 10*

**10** *To Autolycus* 14 **Quote 4, page 3** “66:5 And the Gospel says: "Love your enemies, and pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

**Athenagoras**, *c. 170–190 AD · source 11*

**11** *A Plea for the Christians* 11 **Quote 3, page 2** “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 ›**

**Irenaeus**, *c. 175–202 AD · source 12*

**12** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 2) “not to love our neighbours only, but even our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

**Clement of Alexandria**, *c. 190–215 AD · source 13*

**13** *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 1) “He says: If any one strike you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

**Tertullian**, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 14–16*

**14** *Against Marcion* 15 **Quote 5, page 3** “cannot stand unless it is the precept of the Creator, who promises vengeance, and who presents Himself as the judge in the case. If it were not so, if such… [continues online] **read ›**

**15** *De Corona* 11 (1885 English; on point 5) “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 ›**

**16** *Against Marcion* 38 **Quote 9, page 5** “No one calls those who fall in battle with weapons in hand, while meeting force with force, "sheep." That name is given only to those who are killed while surrendering themselves in their appointed duty and with patience, rather than fighting back in self-defense.” **read ›**

**Origen**, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 17–19*

**17** *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 1) “these remarks it is evident, that when Jesus said coarsely, as Celsus terms it, To him who shall strike you on the one cheek, turn the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

**18** *Against Celsus* 10 (1885 English; on point 5) “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 ›**

**19** *Against Celsus* 25 (on point 1) “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 ›**

**Cyprian**, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 20–22*

**20** *Treatises* **Quote 6, page 3** “You should not demand your 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… [continues online] **read ›**

**21** *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 3) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

**22** *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 3) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

**Apostolic Constitutions**, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 23–25*

**23** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “5:44 Love your enemies; for what thanks is it if you… [continues online] **read ›**

**24** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) as if just revenge were an unrighteous thing, but because long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

**25** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “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 ›**

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**THE BIBLE** *108 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

26 **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 ›**

27 **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 ›**

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

29 **Exodus 21:18** And if two men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with a fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, **read ›**

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

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

32 **Exodus 21:26** And if anyone strikes the eye of his household slave or the eye of his female servant and blinds it, he shall send them away free in return for their eye. **read ›**

33 **Exodus 23:4** And if you meet your enemy's ox or his beast of burden going astray, you shall turn them back and return them to him. **read ›**

34 **Exodus 32:27** He said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his thigh, and go through and back, from gate to gate, throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his neighbor, and every man the one nearest him.'" **read ›**

35 **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 ›**

36 **Leviticus 24:17** Whoever strikes a human being so that he dies, let him surely be put to death. **read ›**

37 **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 ›**

38 **Leviticus 24:21** Whoever strikes a man so that he dies, let him surely be put to death. **read ›**

39 **Deuteronomy 19:19** then you shall do to him as he wickedly planned to do against his brother, and you shall remove the evil from among yourselves. **read ›**

40 **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 ›**

41 **Deuteronomy 25:2** then if the ungodly man deserves lashes, you shall lay him down before the judges, and they shall whip him before them according to his ungodliness. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 25:12** you shall cut off the hand; your eye shall not spare her. **read ›**

43 **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 ›**

44 **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 ›**

45 **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 ›**

46 **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 ›**

47 **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 ›**

48 **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 ›**

49 **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 ›**

50 **2 Samuel 1:27** How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war have perished! **read ›**

51 **1 Kings 3:24** And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought the sword before the king. **read ›**

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52 **1 Kings 8:50** and be gracious to their unrighteousness in which they sinned against you, and with regard to all their transgressions by which they transgressed against you; and you shall give them compassion before those who carry them captive, and they shall have compassion on them; **read ›**

53 **1 Chronicles 21:27** And the Lord spoke to the angel; and he put the sword back into its sheath. **read ›**

54 **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 ›**

55 **Job 6:6** Shall bread be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in empty words? **read ›**

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

57 **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 ›**

58 **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 ›**

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

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

61 **Song of Solomon 3:8** They all hold the sword, trained in war; each man has his sword upon his thigh because of terror by night. **read ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **Isaiah 50:6** I gave my back to whips, and my cheeks to blows; and I did not turn my face away from the shame of spitting. **read ›**

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

65 **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 ›**

66 **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 ›**

67 **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 ›**

68 **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 ›**

69 **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 ›**

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

71 **Ezekiel 21:5** and all flesh shall know that I the Lord have drawn my dagger out of its sheath; it shall not turn back again. (Septuagint Ezekiel 21:10 (Ezekiel 21:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

73 **Ezekiel 21:30** Turn back; do not stay in this place where you were born; in your own land I will judge you. (Septuagint Ezekiel 21:35 (Ezekiel 21:30 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Ezekiel 40:32** And he brought me into the gate that faces east, and he measured it according to these measures, **read ›**

75 **Daniel 4:27** Therefore, O king, let my counsel please you: redeem your sins by acts of mercy, and your unrighteous deeds by compassion to the poor; perhaps God will be long-suffering toward your trespasses." **read ›**

76 **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 ›**

77 **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 ›**

78 **Daniel 11:21** One shall stand in his place who was despised, and they did not give him the glory of the kingdom; and he shall come in prosperity and seize the kingdom by intrigues, **read ›**

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79 **Joel 3:8** and I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hands of the children of Judah, and they will sell them into captivity to a nation far away; for the Lord has spoken. (Septuagint Joel 4:8 (Joel 3:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

80 **Micah 5:14** And I will cut down your groves from your midst, and I will make your cities disappear. (Septuagint Micah 5:13 (Micah 5:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

81 **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 ›**

82 **Zechariah 3:3** And Jesus was clothed in filthy garments, and he was standing before the angel. **read ›**

83 **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 ›**

84 **Judith 6:6** And then the iron of my army and the host of my servants shall pass through your sides, and you shall fall among their wounded, when I return. **read ›**

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

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

87 **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 ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:1** If you do good, know to whom you do it, and there will be thanks for your good deeds. **read ›**

89 **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 ›**

90 **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 ›**

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

92 **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 ›**

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

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

95 **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 ›**

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

97 **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 ›**

98 **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 ›**

99 **1 Maccabees 3:12** He took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and he fought with it all his days. **read ›**

100 **1 Maccabees 7:29** And he came to Judas, and they greeted one another peacefully; but the enemy were ready to seize Judas. **read ›**

101 **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 ›**

102 **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 ›**

103 **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 ›**

104 **2 Maccabees 15:16** "Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries." **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **1 Enoch 95:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **Matthew 5:38** "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' **read ›**

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**108** **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 ›**

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

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

**111** **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 ›**

**112** **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 ›**

**113** **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 ›**

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

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

**116** **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 ›**

**117** **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 ›**

**118** **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 ›**

**119** **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 ›**

**120** **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 ›**

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

**122** **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 ›**

**123** **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 ›**

**124** **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 ›**

**125** **John 18:23** Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, testify of the evil; but if well, why do you beat me?” **read ›**

**126** **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 ›**

**127** **Acts 2:4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. **read ›**

**128** **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 ›**

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

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

**131** **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 ›**

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

**133** **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 *88 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

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**Psalms** 4:4

**Proverbs** 2:16

**Isaiah** 10:23 · 45:1

**Jeremiah** 21:8

**Lamentations** 3:27

**Zechariah** 7:10

**Matthew** 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:22 · 5:26 · 5:31 · 5:33 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 6:3 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 9:13 · 19:3 · 19:12 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 26:61 · 27:5

**Mark** 12:30 · 12:32

**Luke** 2:51 · 6:20 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 16:9 · 16:18

**John** 8:26 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 18:4 · 18:6

**Acts** 1:18 · 7:60 · 17:31 · 20:35

**Romans** 8:11 · 9:28 · 12:19 · 13:7 · 13:14

**1 Corinthians** 1:10 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:14 · 7:10 · 8:6

**2 Corinthians** 4:14

**Galatians** 1:1

**Ephesians** 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

**Philippians** 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16

**1 Timothy** 2:2 · 6:10

**Hebrews** 10:30 · 10:33 · 13:20

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

*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 self-defense?” on May 18, 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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THE END OF THIS STUDY