

For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

49 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.
51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. (Luke 22:49-51)

The above passage comes from the gospel according to Luke, and it comes when Jesus is in the garden, Judas comes to betray Jesus, and the mob seizes him. At this time, one of his disciples asked Jesus whether they should fight back. Before receiving an answer, he swings his sword and cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant.

Remember that in that time, the generally held belief was that the Messiah would lead a revolt against the government and religious establishment. If they do not fight to defend Jesus, the movement would come to an end. They need Jesus to keep the revolution going. Fighting to defend Jesus from being arrested and executed was of supreme importance to them.

Yet in a world full of violence, Jesus chose the path of non-violence. Jesus' emphatic statement, "No more of this!" encapsulates his entire mission. He is not a man of war who is seeking to overthrow the government and establish his own political regime. Rather, he is a rabbi, teaching a different and better way--a way of healing and love. Jesus touches the man's ear and heals him, symbolizing his non-violent approach to everyone, even his enemies.



REFLECTION:
Who do you struggle to get along with the most? How could you extend grace to them?

PRACTICE:
Read a book/article or watch a documentary about someone who modeled non-violence.