

**Message #110****Luke 22:35-38**

I begin today by reading you a few paragraphs from the book *Guns, Crime & Freedom* by Wayne La Pierre.

“In Texas, they now call him the “Monster”; in 1989, the Texas parole board called him a “Good Risk” for return to the community.

Kenneth McDuff had been sentenced to a total of fifty-two years in prison for a series of burglaries in 1964—committed after he raped a woman, cut her throat, and left her for dead. After serving less than ten months of his sentence, he was released in December 1965. Texans would pay dearly—with their lives in some cases—for this act of leniency, and not only for this one.

On August 6, 1966, McDuff was in Everman, Texas, just south of Fort Worth. He and Roy Dale Green were “cruising” through town when McDuff spotted sixteen-year-old Edna Sullivan with her boyfriend Robert Brand, seventeen, and Robert’s cousin, fifteen-year old Mark Dunnam, near a local baseball field.

McDuff stopped his car and, in violation of the federal gun control laws, armed himself with a .38 caliber pistol. At gunpoint he forced Edna and her two friends into the trunk of the car and locked them in.

McDuff drove to a remote area outside of town, stopping in an open field. He ordered Green, who had followed in McDuff’s car, to put Edna in his trunk. The two boys, on their knees began begging for their lives—McDuff shot them both, repeatedly, in the face and head.

McDuff and Green left the scene of the murdered with Edna in the trunk of the second car. They stopped alongside a dirt road, McDuff took her out of the trunk and both McDuff and Green raped her repeatedly. ...McDuff killed her by crushing her neck with a broomstick...Her body was then abandoned by the side of the road.

Green confessed to the killings...and McDuff was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. But in 1972, the Supreme Court of the United States said, in effect, that every death penalty in the country was unconstitutional, and McDuff’s sentence was commuted to life in prison. Under the law then applicable in the state of Texas, this means that McDuff would be eligible for release for parole in 1976—ten years after his vicious murders.

Incredibly, despite his record and the horror of his crimes, the Texas parole board voted to release McDuff on parole in 1989. He was set free, once again, he began to kill” (pp. 111-112).

He killed at least six more people until he was finally executed in 1998.

That story makes me sick. I am sick of seeing a lack of justice. I am sick of crime. I am sick of liars. I am sick of immorality. I am sick of hypocrites and arrogance. I am sick of living in a world that promotes things that are abominations. I am sick of living in a world in which you cannot even talk to a person, but you have to talk to a computer. What I long for is for Jesus Christ to come back and put an end to this.

I long for the day when we no longer have to worry about sin, evil, bills, housing, cars and corruption. I long for the day when Jesus Christ is running things on this earth because right now many of his people are struggling.

When Jesus Christ was physically here on earth the first time, He personally saw to it that everything His disciples needed was totally provided. He provided it. He Personally saw to it that they had no lack and their needs were always met.

Jesus miraculously protected Himself, when people tried to push Him off a cliff (i.e. Luke 4:28-30) and He miraculously protected His disciples, in a storm that could have killed them at sea (i.e. Luke 8:23-25).

But it was now time for Him to physically leave this world. As we just read, this is a dangerous world and life for His disciples would not be the same. His absence from them would not be the same as His presence with them.

This has always been a dangerous world and when Jesus Christ was no longer physically here with His disciples, they would have to live here in many ways on their own. Without Him they would have some struggles, setbacks, hardships and pressures.

That is exactly what Jesus Christ wanted His disciples to know. What He teaches them here is this:

**AS LONG AS JESUS CHRIST IS PHYSICALLY ABSENT FROM THIS WORLD, HIS PEOPLE WILL FACE STRUGGLES, THREATS AND HARDSHIPS AND THEY NEED TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR PROVISIONS AND PROTECTION.**

Any believer who purposes to faithfully obey God and follow Jesus Christ will face his/her share of setbacks. The path will not be smooth. There will be hardships and animosities that will come from both the religious and secular world.

Our hope and comfort comes from knowing that God is with us in life and one day when Jesus Christ returns, everything for us will change. Our sorrows will be turned to joy. Our struggles will be turned to triumphs. Our defeats will be turned to victories. This evil world will be turned into a righteous world. As we said earlier, we long for the day when Jesus Christ is back here running things.

This was such an important subject that Jesus specifically addressed it with His own disciples. He wanted them to know the truth.

There are three main world topics that Jesus Christ presents to His disciples:

**TOPIC #1 – What life is like for disciples when Jesus Christ is physically here. 22:35**

**The Greek text is very emphatic here in that it stresses that when Jesus Christ was physically here on earth with His disciples, they NEVER lacked anything.**

When Christ asks them if they lacked anything, in Greek, He words it in such a way that it demands a “no” answer.

The verb “lack” is one that means to come short or to be inferior or to be behind. What Jesus was doing here was causing the disciples to reflect on the past 3-3 ½ years. He is asking them whether or not they had been adequately cared for and their needs met even though they didn’t even carry any money with them.

We may remember He sent them out in Luke 9:1-4 and again in Luke 10:4-5. He told them not to take any money, food, staff or extra clothes. Now He says think back on these moments. Did you lack for anything? Frankly all of their provisions were miraculously met.

When Jesus was physically here on earth, He literally and physically cared for His men. In fact, John, who was one of the Apostles, said if they would have recorded everything Jesus did in detail, all the books in the world could not contain a record of it (John 21:25). Obviously, Jesus did many things for these men.

Frederic Godet said that when Jesus was with these men “they enjoyed a relatively easy life.” Richard Lenski said you cannot find anywhere when His apostles “went as beggars.” Christ met their needs and sometimes in a miraculous way. He met food needs, tax needs and even shelter needs.

When Jesus was here they did not have to worry about shutting their eyes and being attacked by a predator animal or criminal predator person. They had Jesus with them.

**TOPIC #2** – What life is like for disciples when Jesus Christ is not physically here. **22:36-37**

When Jesus Christ was physically here on earth, He provided for His disciples and He protected His disciples. But now that He was leaving, life would not be the same. There are four realities each disciple needed to face:

**Reality #1** - Each disciple would have to think in terms of his own finances. **22:36a**

Each disciple would need a money belt. When Christ was here they had enough money and if they needed more He could get it out of the mouth of a fish. But now that He was leaving, they would need to think in terms of having some money.

They would need to think in terms of paying bills. They would have to live somewhere. They would have to buy food. They would need to travel. They would need clothes and supplies and to get that they would need to take a money belt so they could purchase what they needed.

**Reality #2** - Each disciple would have to think in terms of his own possessions. **22:36b**

A bag could carry things such as extra supplies. Before, they did not need that, but now they did.

**Reality #3** - Each disciple would have to think in terms of his own protection. **22:36c**

There are some people who wonder whether or not our second amendment is a good thing. The second amendment gives legal, law-abiding Americans the right to bear arms. Jesus not only teaches that His people have the right to bear arms, but now that He is gone, they have the responsibility to bear arms.

Martin Luther was once asked if he would use deadly force against someone seeking to do him or someone else harm. Back in the 1500's the weapons in Germany were swords, daggers, battle axes, spears and a heavy metal mace that was like a club with a sharp point. So Luther was asked whether he would ever use a weapon against someone. His answer is interesting. He said as a citizen I would use deadly force to protect myself and family and other citizens from a criminal who was out to harm or kill another citizen. But if I were being attacked for the gospel, I would not use deadly force and would gladly die for the gospel.

That is a very intriguing thing to think about. But in this text, Jesus specifically tells His disciples, who were responsible to take the gospel to the world, to buy a sword.

The disciples would now need a sword for protection. Now the challenge to get a sword has been interpreted many ways:

**(View #1)** - Some say it is a metaphor meaning prepare for hostility (Matt. 10:34).

**(View #2)** - Some say it is a symbolic challenge to be courageous.

**(View #3)** - Some say it is a spiritual challenge to carefully know God's word, which is the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

**(View #4)** - Some say it is a literal sword for protection.

This is the true meaning. Jesus Christ is challenging His disciples to get a protective weapon in view of the fact that He will no longer be here physically protecting them.

In fact, this is the only interpretation that would make sense of selling an extra coat to buy one if you did not have one.

The right and freedom and the responsibility to bear arms is something Jesus sanctions here. He wanted His own people carrying a defensive weapon because He knew they were living in a dangerous and Satanic world and when He would be gone, they would need to protect themselves.

**Reality #4** - Each disciple would have to think in terms of his own provisions. **22:36d**

Each disciple would need to take inventory of what he had and didn't have. If he needed a sword, he needed to sell an extra coat to get one.

These disciples needed to prepare themselves for some tough times and the "for" that begins **verse 37** tells them the reason. **It was now time for Jesus to fulfill all prophecy of the written Scriptures. It was specifically time for Him to suffer and die for sins.**

Notice all prophecy about a sacrifice for sins has its fulfillment in Him. One specific prophecy was Isaiah 53:12 where it was specifically predicted that the Messiah would be numbered with transgressors.

Jesus Christ was not going to be killed because of the whims of evil enemies; He would be killed to fulfill all prophecy.

**TOPIC #3** – What the disciples were like when Jesus Christ was here. **22:38**

Once again His own disciples don't have a clue as to what Jesus is actually teaching them. Their response to all of this is Lord we have two swords right now so we can prevent anyone from taking You.

Jesus responds by saying, "It is enough." What did Jesus mean?

**(View #1)** - It is enough of this foolish talk of yours.

**(View #2)** - Two swords are enough for now because I am still here.

**(View #3)** - Two swords are enough when you twelve are all together.

**(View #4)** - Two swords are enough to illustrate the fact that you will face hostility.

**(View #5)** - It is enough talk about the temporal and time to focus on the eternal.

Here was a very solemn and sacred moment in the mind of God and the life of Jesus Christ and they are talking about two swords.

It reminds me of a time of a funeral I did and one person at the funeral was discussing their lawn.

Until Jesus Christ returns we are living in an evil and corrupt world. It is a dangerous, immoral world filled with vice and crime and evil criminals. We have responsibilities to look out for ourselves, our families, our church and those helpless.

When Christ returns that will all change. But until then, that is the way it is. That is what Jesus taught His own disciples.