



WEEK FOUR Nov 26 & 27, 2016

Put Down the Sword

Pastor Jared Herd

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The key takeaway from this 4-week series is: In a world that says you either win or you lose, Jesus says there is a third way. What is that third way?

What's wrong with the first and second way?

2. When you're mad or hurt, what is your usual sword of choice if you're tempted to retaliate? How has that worked out for you?

3. Take a look at Matthew 26:47-54. Why did Jesus tell Peter to put his sword down?

What did He mean when He said that if you live by the sword, you'll die by it?

4. Pastor Jared said that it makes no sense to become what you hate. What effect does fighting evil with evil have on us?

5. Our desire to conquer others should cause us to confront ourselves. Why?

6. “We grab swords to solve problems. We actually make the problem worse.” How does settling the score with a sword make a problem worse?

How have you seen this to be true?

7. When is anger appropriate?

8. What is the best advice you’ve heard or been given about how to live free from the destructive power of misplaced anger, crippling bitterness, and the desire for vengeance?

9. Read Colossians 2:14-15. How does the cross “end the argument?” How is the cross the ultimate third way?

MEMORIZE: “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” – James 1:19-20

CRB CORE VALUE THOUGHT: Pastor Jared said that when we pick up the sword of retaliation, it feels like that action is about the other person, but it’s really about us. Our outward goal as a church is to restore a broken world back to how God originally intended it. This week, ponder what your sources of anger and disappointment and hurt are saying about you, and how your responses are being viewed by others.