

Luke 22:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Analysis

But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it... and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one—Radically reversing the earlier commission, Jesus signals a fundamental shift. But now (νῦν, nyn) marks the crucial transition: the protective covering of Jesus's earthly presence would be withdrawn. The disciples must prepare for hostile opposition without the Messiah's physical protection.

The sword (μάχαιρα, machaira) has sparked debate. Some read this literally (self-defense), but Jesus's rebuke in verse 38 ("It is enough") and His later prohibition of Peter's sword use (John 18:11) suggest figurative intent. Jesus warns that the post-resurrection church will face violent opposition requiring spiritual vigilance and readiness for martyrdom, not armed rebellion. Or possibly: two swords were sufficient for fulfilling Scripture (verse 37), not for military defense.

Historical Context

First-century Palestinian Jews under Roman occupation sometimes carried short swords for protection against bandits on rural roads. However, organized armed resistance (the Zealot movement) was considered seditious. Jesus's coming arrest, crucifixion, and the church's subsequent persecution fundamentally changed the disciples' relationship to Jewish society and Roman law. They would no longer enjoy general hospitality but face systematic opposition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you prepare spiritually for seasons of opposition and suffering rather than expecting continual ease and provision?
2. What is the proper Christian response to persecution—passive acceptance, legal defense, armed resistance, or something else?
3. How does the change from Jesus's first sending to this new commission illustrate different strategies for different seasons of ministry?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτοῦ	Ἀλλὰ	νῦν	ὁ	ἔχων	βαλάντιον
said he	Then	unto them	But	now	G3588	he that hath	a purse
G2036	G3767	G846	G235	G3568		G2192	G905

ἀράτω	ὁμοίως	καὶ	πήραν	καὶ	ὁ	μὴ	ἔχων
let him take	likewise	and	his scrip	and	G3588	no	he that hath
G142	G3668	G2532	G4082	G2532		G3361	G2192

πωλησάτω	τὸ	ἱμάτιον	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	ἀγορασάτω	μάχαιραν
let him sell	G3588	garment	unto them	and	buy	sword
G4453		G2440	G846	G2532	G59	G3162