

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

December 10, 2020

Matthew 26:36-44 ESV

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

- *What do you do, when like Jesus and Paul (thorn in the flesh - 2 Corinthians 12:7-9), you pray 3 times, and God's answer to your request is a direct and definite "No?"*
- *Do you rebel, try to take back control of your life and circumstances, or do you surrender to what God has ordained for you?*
- *What if God says "no" to our prayers for our nation and the things we fear the most for our nation come to pass?*
- *Would there ever be a time for God's people to take up arms to participate in or even lead a rebellion or coup?*

Luke 22:35-38 ESV

35 And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing."

36 He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.

37 For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

38 And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

- *Two swords among 12 men ARE NOT enough to start an uprising or a rebellion; neither against Rome nor the Temple guards.*
- *Two swords among 12 men ARE enough to ward off a wild animal or common thief on the roadways when traveling.*
- *By recommending the purchase of a sword, Jesus was not endorsing rebellion against civil authority, but He was endorsing self-defense.*

Luke 22:47-54 ESV

47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus said, "**No more of this!**" And he touched his ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?

53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.

- *This was not a mob that came for Jesus, but an official arrest to bring him before the Jewish council or Sanhedrin.*

Luke 22:66 ESV

66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council...

- *The Jewish Council was a judicial body who met daily in the temple in a building called the "Hall of Hewn Stones" during the Second Temple period (6th century BC – 1st century AD).*
- *The Sanhedrin was a judicial court with sovereign powers to impose criminal penalties under the oversight of the Roman government. The Sanhedrin could not impose the death penalty.*

John 18:28-31 ESV

28 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

30 They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."

31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."

Matthew 22:15-21 ESV

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.

16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.

17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?

19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

20 And Jesus said to them, "**Whose likeness and inscription is this?**"

21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore **render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**"

- *Jesus, Paul and Peter so believed in God's sovereign rule over nations and national leaders, they believed it was better to be put to death by the powers that be, in obedience to God, rather than to resist and fight back in rebellion.*
- *The only other option that Jesus gave and the early Church utilized, was to flee.*

Matthew 24:15-16 ESV

15 So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Romans 13:1-7 ESV

1 **Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.**

2 **Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.**

3 **For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?** Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

4 **for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.**

5 **Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.**

6 **For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.**

7 **Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.**

- *God's intent for human government is to restrain the lawlessness and evil of man's heart. Whether governmental authorities realize their purpose in God's plan or not, that is why they are appointed by God.*
- *Verse 3, "...rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad..." There have been evil rulers who have been a terror to good works, and God's people have been persecuted and slaughtered. Paul, in verse 3, is speaking to the principle, not specific exceptions.*

1 Peter 2:13-17 ESV

13 **Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,**

14 **or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.**

15 **For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**

16 **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.**

17 **Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.**