

War and Peace, part 4 - The Objections

Study Notes for Message on 28th February 2021

Luke 22 verses 35 to 38

Today we looked at some objections to the view that it is never right for a Christian to kill or use violence. Yet pacifism won't necessarily obtain a better result. **Is the result more important, or the method?**

Pacifism is about actively engaging a situation with peace; a way of life.

Read Matthew 26 verse 52. What is your reaction to Jesus' words?

OBJECTIONS TO PACIFISM:

A: *'Should we have done nothing and let Hitler take over the world?'*

Violence or peace? Is there a third option?

If all Christians were pacifist, following Jesus' teachings, Hitler would have no army.

Does that surprise you? Why?

B: *'Doesn't the Jesus in Revelation 19 promote war?'*

Read Revelation 19 verses 11 to 16. That passage can be understood as symbolic, not literal. **Do you agree? If not, why not?**

C: *'Didn't Jesus say he came to bring a sword?'*

Read Matthew 10 verse 34. This is about the word of God creating division within families. **What sort of division?**

D: *'Didn't Jesus tell his disciples to get swords?'*

Read Luke 22 verses 35 to 38. Again, Jesus talks about the sword of the word. **If not, why tell Peter not to use his sword?**

E: *'What about protecting our families?'*

What is your view?

Consider these false assumptions:

1. Our choices are either violence or passivity.
2. Only a violent solution works.
3. Saving your family's life is most important.