

## Simply One Page-Put The Sword Away

This piece was created from my own reflections and vision. I used ChatGPT as a tool to help shape the text from my original concepts and structure. The final form is the result of thoughtful revision motivated by my one page intent. Mike Haddorff 2614

After the washing of feet, after the meal, after the long prayer, Jesus said, "Let's leave this place."

And they did.

He walked straight into Gethsemane, into betrayal, into armed men carrying their own light, and toward a Roman cross. He wasn't caught. He wasn't confused. He wasn't surprised. Jesus knew exactly what was unfolding, and he stepped into it willingly.

What stands out is not what Jesus does, but what he does *not* do.

There is no panic. No attempt to escape. No rush to defend himself or his followers. When Peter draws his sword, ready to protect and resist, Jesus stops him. "Put your sword away." Then, turning to the soldiers, he says, "Let these go."

This moment is easy to miss, but it carries enormous weight. Jesus is not simply preventing violence. He is revealing the shape of life in what Jesus named earlier as, "the kingdom not of this world."

The way forward will not come through force, fear, or self-preservation. It will come through trust, release, and surrender.

And this is where resurrection life begins.

We often imagine resurrection as something that happens suddenly on Sunday morning, as though life bursts forth only after everything is finished. But in truth, resurrection is already taking shape here, on Thursday night. It begins the moment Jesus refuses the sword. Life emerges when control is released. Love moves forward when fear is laid down.

This scene is a smaller story inside the larger one we are living. We reach for swords of our own, arguments, certainty, defensiveness, the need to be right, because we are afraid of what might be lost. We cling, protect, and tighten our grip, convinced that life depends on our ability to hold things together.

But Jesus shows another way. He entrusts himself fully. He lets go. He allows the worst that human power can do to unfold without returning it in kind. In doing so, he aligns himself with the deepest truth of reality: that life is not created through force, but revealed through love.

What will happen on Sunday morning does not come out of nowhere. Resurrection is not a reversal of Thursday night, it is its natural continuation. The life that rises from the tomb is the same life that put the sword away in the garden.

Maundy Thursday invites us to ask a hard and hopeful question: Where am I still gripping a sword, convinced that my survival depends on it?

And what new life might begin to emerge if I set it down?