

I remember so strongly about the apostle Peter at the time of his denials of Christ¹. It had been a long day and evening, with the Passover supper, the discussions that Jesus led us in, and the prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane. I was so tired and sleepy. Then Judas came to the grove in the Garden of Gethsemane guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons to arrest Jesus². When Jesus boldly presented Himself to them, Simon Peter, drew his sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear³.

It is incredible to me the amount of courage that Peter showed here. A disciplined group of soldiers stood against a small group of disciples, who only had two swords⁴ among them. Peter was essentially our leader, who alone had the spirit (and perhaps faith) to try to defend our Teacher.

We had all claimed to be ready to die for Him⁵, but in a sudden reversal we became very confused about what we should do. I believe with all of my heart that Peter was not afraid to die for a purpose or a cause. But Peter, like the rest of the apostles, had in his mind a purpose which had to be fulfilled by the sword. When, very abruptly, this dream was shattered, Peter became confused; his cause (and ours) became unclear. And so, we all deserted Him and fled⁶. I had a sword too, but was only able to move my feet!

Later on, when the purpose had become clear again, Peter proved his heart and once again gave his all for the cause. We are all sometimes guilty of periods of uncertainty where our faith is lacking. At other times we are ready to draw a sword and lead the charge as long as it is on our own terms. Are we able to translate the strength of Peter's dedication, the man of action, into the less exciting dedication of treating others as though they were the Christ⁷? Does our confusion about things that happen in our lives cause us to hesitate and deny Christ? We must submit to God and dedicate ourselves to his plans and will.

1. Matthew 26, Mark 14, and John 18
2. John 18:3ff
3. John 18:10
4. Luke 22:38
5. Matthew 26:35
6. Matthew 26:56
7. Matthew 25