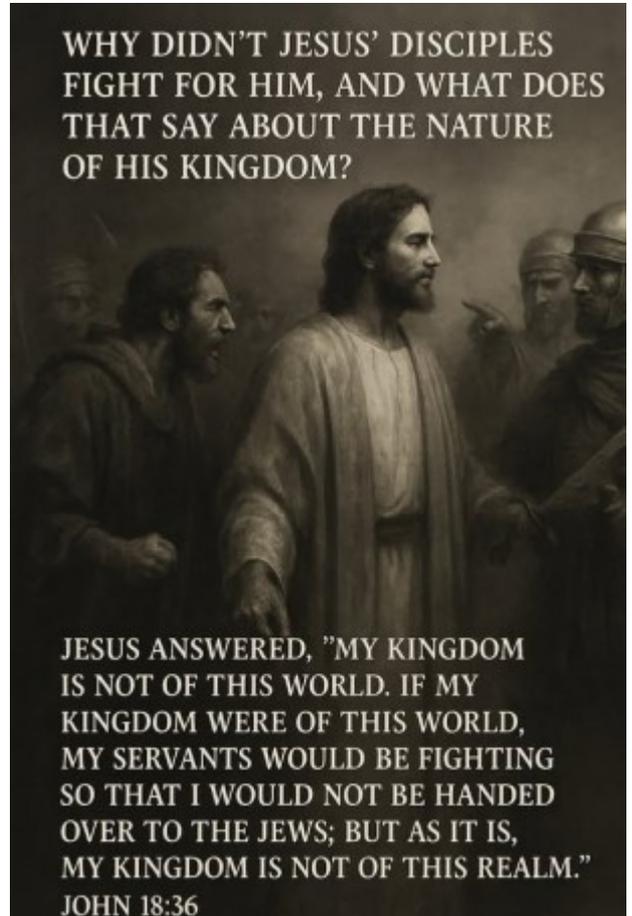


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**Kingdom - Why didn't Jesus' disciples fight for Him, and what does that say about the nature of His kingdom (John 18:36)?**



By Dan Maines

**Why didn't Jesus' disciples fight for Him, and what does that say about the nature of His kingdom (John 18:36)?**

Jesus' disciples didn't fight for Him because His kingdom was never meant to be built through force, violence, or political power. As He clearly said, "If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting..." (John 18:36). The fact that they didn't fight proves His kingdom operates on an entirely different level, a spiritual, not military or political one.

He was fulfilling a kingdom that would come without observation (Luke 17:20). His victory would be won through the cross, not by the sword. His rule transforms hearts, not governments. The non-resistance of His disciples shows His kingdom was never about seizing land or ruling earthly territory, but about establishing a new covenant reality, fulfilled by AD70.

What He was really saying is, "If My kingdom were of this world, and it's not, then My servants would be fighting, but they're not."

Jesus is a King, and He does have a kingdom, but it wasn't the kind of kingdom that would challenge Caesar's throne by waging war. Jesus was no political revolutionary. His kingdom is not of this world.

He's saying plainly that His kingdom is not physical or geographic. It is spiritual. It's other-worldly. It's not of this physical realm.

Luke 17:20-21 (ESV) says:

"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'"

Jesus taught a spiritual kingdom. Yet, despite His clear words, many are still looking for a physical one. His kingdom is here now. It was consummated in AD70. It's a spiritual kingdom, not a fleshly one, and it did not come with visible signs.

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