

Series: Parables of Jesus
Lesson: 10
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Christians and the Use of Violence

Situation 1

The state correctional office employs a Christian to work in one of their prisons. As a prison guard they are taunted and cussed at. On one occasion an inmate gets out of control and takes a lead pipe and starts hitting everyone. The guard gives repeated warnings to put the pipe down before he kills someone. The inmate turns and runs towards the guard to strike him. The guard cannot escape so he takes his gun and fires a shot that brings the inmate down. Was the Christian guard justified to use his gun?

Situation 2

Christians in a small town community know that a clinic has been set up to help women who want to get an abortion. They have protested for months outside the clinic and have made repeated phones to the doctor to dissuade him from carrying out the abortions. Unable to convince him to stop, three Christians wait outside his home and hope to intimidate him by beating him and vandalizing his car. In the effort to save the lives of unborn children, can these Christians justifiably harm the doctor?

Situation 3

On Sunday morning a teenager addicted to crack comes into the auditorium and begins spraying vulgar obscenities on the walls and floors. A couple of men try to contain him when he pulls out a knife and cuts one of them. Someone has phoned the police but the teenager is headed towards the door. Another man standing by the door does not want to see the teenager escape and harm others, especially those who are headed in towards the building. As the teenager approaches he hits the boy square in the face knocking him down until others come and disarm him. Was he justified to strike the teenager in order to protect others?

Situation 4

In a Third World country, Islamic extremists are persecuting Christians. The government condemns the attacks but does little to arrest any of the persecutors. Can a group of Christians justifiably attack those they know are causing and supporting these acts of aggression?