

Luke 13 31-35 Lament over Jerusalem

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.

Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.'

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say,

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

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## Commentary on Luke 13: 31-35

Jesus was making his last journey to Jerusalem. Jesus took his time stopping in little towns and villages, gathering crowds around him to preach and to heal.

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." The threat was credible. Herod had already beheaded Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, and others would have changed their route, but Jesus wasn't impressed.

It is interesting that Pharisees would come to see him and warn him about Herod since they were strict observers of the traditional and written law, and considered themselves of superior sanctity.

Jesus responded to the Pharisees, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

Jesus knew Herod could not touch him or interfere with his destiny. He would reach his goal, be crucified in three days and Herod could not stop him.

We go through life thinking that we are somewhat invulnerable, relatively safe from harm. It is our defense mechanism, allowing us to go through life

without thinking that death is lurking around every corner. But we know that Judgement day is coming for us and we do our best to prepare for it.

We don't have to fear Judgement day because Jesus cleared the way for us and overcame every obstacle when he gave his life for us on the cross. Jesus went on to Jerusalem to suffer and die for us in spite of the obstacles placed in His way. He would be “the stone rejected by the builders that would become the chief cornerstone.”

God calls to us through Jesus. God yearns for us. He yearns for the time when we will be with him once again. He yearns for the time when the relationship between us will be perfect as it once was.

Jesus expresses God's yearning. He laments that God has tried to bring his creation back to Him, to win back his people, through the history of the Old Testament. But it was of no use.

So, God sent Jesus to reconcile with Him, to bring mankind back to God. What mankind would not do for itself, God did for them.

All the while. God longed for his people to trust, to believe in Him. But they would not. So God decided if he came among his people, if he walked with his people, if he told them of the great love he had for them, as one of them, then maybe they would listen. Maybe then they would understand how He longed for have a right relationship with his people. So, God became flesh, lived among his people, and died to heal their relationship with Him.