

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“JESUS’ RESPONSE TO CONSTANT OPPOSITION”

For individual study or group discussion

Setting his face toward Jerusalem, Jesus continues his journey despite encountering resistance along the way. In Luke 13:31-35, while in Galilee, he is approached by a group of Pharisees who warn him about Herod’s plan to kill him. **Jesus’ response to constant opposition** is one of resolve. He must be about his Father’s business (Luke 2:49), and in today’s passage we learn that the goal of completing his redemptive work will not be interrupted.

The United Opposition to Jesus (vv. 31)

Hostility toward Jesus has been growing since the beginning of his ministry. Recall from Luke chapter 4 when the people of his hometown sought to throw him off a cliff after he announced his messianic identity in the temple (vv. 16-30). Or in Luke 6:1-11, when Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath, and the Pharisees “were filled with fury” and sought to destroy him. Today in Luke 13:31, it is Herod Antipas who threatens Jesus’ life. But Jesus is undeterred despite the constant threats upon his life.

- The Herod mentioned in Luke 13:31-35 is not the first Herod who sought to kill Jesus. Read Matthew 2. Why did Herod the Great want to murder Jesus?
- Jesus posed a threat to the power of the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and the Herodians. Read Mark 3:6, 8:15, and 12:13. Describe the united opposition you see in these verses.

The Fixed Mission of Jesus (vv. 32-33)

Jesus will not be sidelined. His mission cannot be interrupted. “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.’” According to theologian, Geerhardus Vos, Jesus would not be deterred until he accomplished all he had set out to do: *“The work inaugurated by Jesus aims at nothing less than a supernatural renewal of the world, whereby all evil will be overcome, a renewal of the physical as well as the spiritual world.”*¹

- How are Jesus’ continued healings and casting out of demons manifestations of his kingdom power? (cf. Luke 4:18-19, 11:20)
- What does this passage tell us about Jesus’ commitment to his mission? Read Hebrews 2:9-18. Describe Jesus’ mission.

The Deep Anguish of Jesus (vv. 34-35)

There’s a tragic irony in the words of Christ concerning Jerusalem. In Deuteronomy 12:5, Moses tells the children of Israel that God will “make his habitation” in Jerusalem. Even the name Jerusalem means “city of peace,” and yet it is “the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it” (v. 34). After these indicting words, we see the deep anguish of Jesus. He longs to gather the children of Israel under the safety of his wings, but they will not have him.

- Read Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 Timothy 2:4. What is God’s desire for all of mankind? Reflect over the previous studies in Luke 13. How do the urgent warnings of Christ give you pause in light of his deep anguish?

DATE: October 15, 2023

SPEAKER: Aaron/Brian

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 13:31-35

Family Dinner Table

The Fox & the Hen from Aesop’s Fables

One bright evening, as the sun was sinking on a glorious world, a wise old Hen flew into a tree to roost. Before she composed herself to rest, she flapped her wings three times and crowed loudly. But just as she was about to put her head under her wing, her beady eyes caught a flash of red and a glimpse of a long pointed nose, and there just below her stood Master Fox. “Have you heard the wonderful news?” cried the Fox in a very joyful and excited manner.

“What news?” asked the Hen very calmly. But she had a queer, fluttery feeling inside her, for, you know, she was very much afraid of the Fox.

“Your family and mine and all other animals have agreed to forget their differences and live in peace and friendship from now on, forever. Just think of it! I simply cannot wait to embrace you! Do come down, dear friend, and let us go into the forest together to celebrate the joyful event.”

“How grand!” said the Hen. “I certainly am delighted at the news.” But she spoke in an absent way, and stretching up on tiptoes, seemed to be looking at something afar off.

“What is it you see?” asked the Fox a little anxiously.

“Why, it looks to me like a couple of Dogs coming this way. They must have heard the good news and—”

But the Fox did not wait to hear more. Off he started on a run.

“Wait,” cried the Hen. “Why do you run? The Dogs are friends of yours now!”

“Yes,” answered the Fox. “But they might not have heard the news. Besides, I have a very important errand that I had almost forgotten about.”

The Hen smiled as she buried her head in her feathers and went to sleep, for she had succeeded in outfoxing the Fox.

- In Luke 13:31-35, we find another “Fox & the Hen” story. How does Jesus publicly respond to “the fox’s” death threat? Read Psalm 91. Describe how God protects those he loves.

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¹ Vos, Geerhardus. *The Kingdom of God and the Church*. 1972. Nutley, NJ. P&R Publishing. 56.