



Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Luke 13.31-35 | March 11, 2018

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue our series in the Gospel of Luke, *Who Is This Man?* Today we will consider the question, "Who is this man who will not be swayed from his mission?"

II. Connecting with One Another

When is the last time you felt you must do something, such as complete a task or have a particular conversation? What was the context? Why did you feel this way?

III. Study the Text

- a. Read one time through the passage, Luke 13.31-35. What stands out to you? What questions do you have after this initial reading?
- b. Read again verse 31. According to 13.22 Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem. He has not yet arrived but is somewhere close. What warning does he receive? From whom?

The motives of these Pharisees remain unknown. Most likely they simply wanted Jesus' disruptive influence somewhere else and were using the threat of Herod to scare Jesus away. (This was the same Herod who had John the Baptist killed and was intrigued by Jesus. See Luke 9.7-9.)

- c. Read 13.32-33. How does Jesus respond to the warning of these Pharisees?

In these verses Jesus lays out a timeline: today, tomorrow, the third day. In what two different ways can that timeline be read?

Read again verse 32. Based on the activities Jesus names that he will continue to do, how would you characterize his mission?

Herod is described as a "fox" by Jesus. Later he uses the metaphor of a hen to describe himself. How do foxes and hens typically relate? What are their characteristics? What conclusions can we draw about Herod? About Jesus?

- d. In verse 33 Jesus states that he *must* continue his path toward Jerusalem. Read Luke 2.49; 4.43; 9.22; 22.37. What do his statements tell us about his psyche and his purpose?

Note: Jesus' mention that "no prophet can die outside Jerusalem" is an acknowledgement that the capital city had a sad history of rejecting God's prophets

(see, if you have time: 1 Kings 19.10, 2 Chronicles 24.19-21; Jeremiah 2.30; 26.20-23), and it would reject the Messiah just as it had rejected his forerunners.

- e. Read Luke 13.34-35. What is it that Jesus laments over in verse 34? (Jesus' sorrow foreshadows the words of Stephen before he is stoned in Jerusalem, Acts 7.52.)
- f. In verse 35 "house" can refer either to the people themselves or to the temple, perhaps both. The result of unwillingness to accept God's embrace (v. 34) is desolation, or forsakenness. (Indeed, the temple itself was literally destroyed in AD 70.) Have you ever felt "forsaken" by God? How does this verse speak to those feelings?
- g. At the end of verse 35, Jesus declares that those who oppose him will not see him again until the time when they will declare, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." These words are part of the processional psalm that was sung by pilgrims entering Jerusalem for festivals (Psalm 118.26).

In quoting this Psalm, Jesus looks ahead to his return at the end of time when Jerusalem and all of creation will hail him as that "one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Ironically, when Jesus finally reaches Jerusalem and enters, those words from Psalm 118.26 *are* chanted (Luke 19.38). But the welcome is from crowds of his disciples, not the city itself.

The chant reminds us of who Jesus is and points forward to his return.

IV. Reflect

- a. Is there a "mission" or task to which you feel God calling you? What is it? What "foxes" might seek to prevent you from following that call?
- b. What does it look like for you to allow yourself to be gathered under the "wings" of God?
- c. Who are those whom you lament over? Friends? Family? Neighbors? How can you best embody the love of Jesus to them?

V. Pray

- a. Praise God for the blessings in your life, including God's embracing love...
- b. Confess to God what is on your heart to confess...
- c. Pray for the people and situations God brings to mind...
- d. Pray for Good Shepherd and its leaders...
- e. Receive God's acceptance of you...bask in the light and love of Jesus...God is for you!