

Moving Towards

Lent

Luke 13:31-35

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

REFLECTION

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem during a tumultuous time in which Herod has just beheaded John the Baptist, and has placed a large price on Jesus' head. The Pharisees even warn him not to enter this city with its "hostile record towards prophets" (v. 34). However, Jesus' sense of mission and deep relationship with His father keep him from being distracted on this journey. ***Even though Jesus knows He is headed for death, how does He not allow Herod to hinder his work? When have you felt a deep sense of mission that nothing could change your course?***

Jesus laments Jerusalem for making a pastime of rejecting God's will and refusing his care (v. 34). His double address, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem..." shows the depth of Jesus' love and is used to get their immediate attention. Thankfully, we can turn to lament when we might be tempted to turn away, knowing that God wants to hear our cry. Many psalms provide us with a template for lament, including [Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14](#), read in worship. ***How have you found comfort in lament? What psalms or resources have helped guide you?***

Jesus humbled himself, came near, and sacrificed for the people He loves. Human inclination is to push away, as the Israelites did, but the divine inclination is to push toward. This is great news for us, our broken world, and all those who continue to push God away. Every one of us has a sphere of influence in which we can fight for others. ***Where is your sphere, and what can you sacrifice for those whom you lead (comfort, credit, privilege)?***