

Luke

See Jesus

The Mission and Mercy of Our Savior

Luke 13:31-35

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 22, 2022

I. The Message of Jesus Has Never Been “Good News” to Proud or Powerful People

Luke 13:31 “At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill You.’”

This verse is a reaction to what He just said previously (see Luke 13:22-30).

This radical message of Jesus was designed to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. It was designed to crush the settled and self-righteous, while being a gentle hand of mercy to those who thought there was no hope for them to ever be right with God.

The Pharisees are not giving him some friendly advice or trying to help Him out. They are ticked off, trying to intimidate Him, silence Him, and get Him to move out of their area.

Proud and powerful people always saw Jesus as a threat because they were already settled and secure in their own system and resources that were available to them.

Matthew 21:31 “...Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”

II. The Mission of Jesus Has Never Been Thwarted by Anything in History

Luke 13:32 “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.”’”

People trembled at the mention of King Herod because they knew what He could do...but not Jesus! He was unfazed by this threat and actually gives them a message to take back to Herod!

He chose His animal carefully when He called Herod a fox. In ancient times, the fox was considered nothing but a nuisance – an insignificant and petty creature that had no real power. To call someone a fox was to demean them or show contempt for them publicly.

Luke 13:32 “...and the third day I finish my course.”

NIV “...the third day I will reach my goal.”

NLT “...the third day I will accomplish my purpose.”

He’s talking about His resurrection from the dead three days after He would hang on the cross in payment for our sins.

Jesus lived every moment of His earthly life with an incredible awareness of who He was, where He was in history, and what He’d come to do.

The Gospel of John brings this awareness into focus by recording the number of times Jesus talked about “His hour.”

John 7:30 “So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

John 8:20 “These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; but no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.”

John 13:1 “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

John 17:1 “When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You.’”

The Greek word for “finish” at the end of v. 32 is the same word He cried out from the cross:

John 19:30 “...It is finished’...and gave up His spirit.”

Jesus was on a mission to solve our biggest problem – the sin problem that separates us from a holy God. No one would end His life before the work was done.

John 10:17-18 “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

III. The Mercy of Jesus Has Always Been Constant in the Face of Rejection

Luke 13:34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often I would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you would not!”

His heart was broken and grieved as He saw the rebellion and hardheartedness! This was not an expression of anger, but was a sob of anguish!

Jesus didn’t come to just give us advice or additional resources and power. He came to give us Himself.

The same Jesus who would have gathered Jerusalem under His arms wants to do the same for you today. Wherever you are, whatever you’ve done, or whatever’s been done to you—He sees you, loves you, and pleads with you to come to Him!

IV. His Rejection Will Be Shattered Forever by His Glorious Return

Luke 13:35 “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!’”

He’s talking about His second coming when He splits the sky from East to West and every person will see Him and say what is true about Him, regardless of where they stand spiritually.

Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”