

ONLY GOD'S PEOPLE KILL GOD'S PROPHETS!

Luke 13:31-35

"The Christian army is the only army that shoots its wounded!"

Luke's account demonstrates that this is not a new phenomenon, unique to the day in which we live. A similar condition existed in Jerusalem in Jesus' day.

ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF MESSIAH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ARE PRESENTED AS JESUS TRAVELS TOWARD JERUSALEM (9:51-19:27).

TRUE NATURE OF REJECTION 13:10-16:31

Luke combines incidents which demonstrate the true nature of their rejection:

The theological objections to Jesus were a smoke screen to veil their true motive.

FUTURE OF KINGDOM PROGRAM 13:18-35

The extent of the rejection would be discouraging to the faithful observer, therefore they had to understand the future of God's program:

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast: though the kingdom does not have a large beginning, it will grow into something great (13:18-21).

The narrow door: though many want the benefits of the kingdom, few seek to enter the door God has provided (13:22-30).

We must take advantage of the opportunity now, before God closes the door.

HEROD'S THREAT PROVOKES A PREDICTION 13:31-35

Jesus was in Herod's territory.

The Pharisees apparently wanted Him out of there.

We don't know what their interest was—but they are part of the scheme. They want Him out of there!

They may have been trying to show Him as a coward.

They may have been trying to scare Him off.

They may have been trying to get Him where they could keep an eye on Him more easily, or where the Sanhedrin was in control so they could take care of Him.

In any case, Jesus wasn't buying into it.

Jesus' direct response to Herod's threat conveys two messages:

1. EVEN THE MIGHTY HEROD CANNOT INTERFERE WITH GOD'S PLAN FOR JESUS' MINISTRY 13:31-33

Debate continues about the significance of calling Herod a fox.

Some think that is because of his lack of importance.

Others think it is a reference to his slyness. *Sly in what way?*

Perhaps sending the Pharisees to scare Jesus away so that he doesn't have to act.

They blame it on him, but they keep him out of the picture personally.

He's already moved against the spokesman of the Lord once.
This is a good way to avoid doing it again.

He got into enough trouble by his action against John the Baptist.

He can avoid the problem by using Pharisees to warn Jesus privately.

However, no threat from Herod will change Jesus' divinely determined plan.

He is going to Jerusalem on God's schedule.

His response makes several statements to Herod:

- 1) "I'm not afraid of you!"
- 2) "I'm not out to hurt you—in fact, I'm doing good for your people"
- 3) "I'm not letting anything stand in the way of fulfilling God's plan."
- 4) "I'll be gone in a couple of days—my struggle is with Jerusalem, not you"

JESUS WILL COMPLETE THE WORK GOD HAS GIVEN HIM.

He recognizes God's control, and the importance of His plan.

He was working on God's timetable, not man's.
No human threat could change the plan—God is in control.

JESUS WILL DIE IN JERUSALEM

God had decreed from eternity that Jesus would die in Jerusalem at Passover.

Even Herod couldn't change that!

Our Lord's enemies could not hinder God's purposes.

[The second message that Jesus' response to Herod conveys is that:]

2. **HIS REJECTION AND DEATH WILL NOT BE THE
WORK OF OUTSIDERS; GOD'S SPOKESMEN ARE
KILLED IN JERUSALEM AND HE IS REJECTED
THERE** **13:34-35**

No pagan nation could lay claim to killing God's spokesmen as Jerusalem had.

PAGANS DON'T KILL GOD'S SPOKESMEN

ONLY GOD'S PEOPLE KILL HIS SPOKESMEN!

ONLY GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD KILL HIM!—THEIR MESSIAH

It would never do for Him to die outside Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is where God's messengers always die—**Only in Jerusalem,
the murderous city.**

They are the ones who kill God's spokesmen, not the pagans!

Satan uses God's people to destroy one another and to oppose God's plan.

A LESSON FROM THE HEN AND HER CHICKS

He uses the image of the hen and her chicks, familiar to agricultural people.

THE HEN gathers her chicks under her wings when she sees danger coming.

THE CHICKS stay under the protection of her wings.

JESUS wanted to gather and protect them.

ISRAEL wasn't willing to accept His protection.

The chicks have more sense than God's people!

We aren't always willing to allow God to gather *US* under His wing either!

- We'd rather help ourselves.

- Sometimes, when He wants to protect us from harm, we don't want His help!

God loves us too much to leave us where we will be hurt.

WHAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM? YOU WERE NOT WILLING! It isn't God's lack of interest; it's their rejection. They don't *want* Him.

WHAT'S THE RESULT? He is going to judge them and leave the city desolate.

Since "God's city," is where His spokesmen are killed, and He is rejected, He is going to leave them and will not return until they are ready to receive Him.

He laments the coming judgment.

Rejection brings judgment and the destruction of the city.

The prophecy is present tense. It is already sealed—a fact from God's perspective. It is already dismissed, disbanded, abandoned, by God.

The city was destroyed as Jesus said in A.D. 70.

He won't return until they begin to seek Him.

Jesus will leave and will not return until they are ready to receive Him.

WHAT'S THE HOPE? The day will come when they will seek Him.

There will be a day when a prepared remnant will cry out, as Jesus said,
"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

They will recognize Him.
They will bless Him.
He will return to them.

HE WILL COME ON THAT DAY!

Again the DIRECT APPLICATION IS TO THE NATION ISRAEL.

They will recognize Him.
They will turn back to Him. (Zechariah's promise-**tonight**)

INDIRECTLY- A UNIVERSAL APPLICATION IS STILL TRUE.

God sent Jesus to die for all people.

He continues to reach out to us.

He will not force Himself on us. He will wait until we seek Him.
*What's it going to take before **you** seek Him?*

Risk: There may be some among those called by His name here in this valley:

- Who want to attack-to undermine, or destroy, -God's plan
- Who refuse to come under His protective wing.

Paul tells us that the day is coming when every knee shall bow before Him.

All mankind will shout "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

In that day His people will celebrate with Him.
Will you be part of that great congregation?

Or, will you be among those on the outside weeping-or angry-because you've been left out.
Jesus wants you to come under His protective wing this morning.