

## GOD MOVES – OVER ALL OBSTACLES

### **Luke 13:31-35**

*31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 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. 33 Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ 34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 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!’”*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Notice the phrase that Luke uses in verse 31 “At that very hour”. For us to understand this text, we need to see what had happened “at that very hour”. Therefore, we need to look at the verses prior to this from verses 22-30.

Someone had just asked him “Lord, will those who are saved be *few*?” (v22). And Jesus answers that “*many*... will seek to enter and will not be able” (v24b). This scary news for those who are listening and even us.

The entry into the kingdom is both *exclusive and inclusive*. It is exclusive because only those who “strive to enter through the narrow door” (v24a) will enter. Yet, it is inclusive because “people will come from *east and west, and from north and south*, and recline at the table in the kingdom of God”.

**If entering the kingdom requires striving (v.24), what does that look like in your daily life? How can we encourage one another to stay on this path, rather than assuming we are already ‘inside’?**

## DISCUSS

### 1. Herod rejects God's King

Herod the tetrarch of Galilee wanted to kill Jesus. The Pharisees with seemingly good intentions were therefore warning Jesus to flee. Yet Jesus' reply was shocking. He seemed to not fear the most 'powerful' man in Galilee.

Jesus calls him a "fox" which means a sly but weak person. And says that he will "cast out demons, and perform cures" for a specific time according to *his* course. By mentioning these two tasks, Jesus is demonstrating that *He* is the true messianic King, fulfilling Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1. We see a stark contrast of power between an earthly ruler in Herod, and the universal King in Jesus. One who has a pretend power for a moment, and the other who has supreme power over creation.

Power is not found in earthly status or control, but in the King, God has sent. Herod seemed powerful for a moment, but Jesus, the true King, had authority over life, death, and salvation. His mission was unstoppable – His death and resurrection proved His ultimate authority over all things.

**Where in your life are you tempted to trust in 'earthly powers' – whether status, security, or control – rather than in Jesus' ultimate authority? How can we learn to trust in Jesus' kingship even when it seems risky or countercultural?**

### 2. Jerusalem rejects God's prophet

As Jesus talks about His kingly mission to Jerusalem, He moves on to address Jerusalem in the first person. But he isn't dismissive or disinterested. He pleads to them with all his affections "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem".

Jesus is in sorrow over their repeated rejection of God's previous prophets (v34) and their rejection of God's final prophet in time to come. Yet God still desires to care and protect them, like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. However, Jerusalem's response does not change; they were still 'not willing.'

**In what areas of our lives do we resist Jesus' care and leadership? What might it look like to respond with willingness in those areas?**

### **3. To Reject or Accept the Messiah?**

Jesus ends with a prediction that Jerusalem “will not see me until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”.

The prediction comes true in Luke 19:38. Some in Jerusalem do actually receive Jesus as King with those words. Yet immediately, some Pharisees reject Jesus, saying “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” (19:39). The religious leaders of Jerusalem also reject Jesus in plotting his death and crying to “Crucify, crucify him!” (Luke 23:21b).

Yet none of this surprised Jesus; He had already foretold it. We see it early in chapter 9, when Jesus said “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised”.

Jesus' plan from the beginning was to die on the cross and rise again, opening the way for us to enter the narrow door.

**Have you found assurance that you are among those who have entered the narrow door? How does trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection—not your own efforts—give you confidence in your salvation?**

**Pray For:**

**1. Assurance in salvation**

- Pray for hearts to be assured that we have truly entered the narrow door through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Ask God to reveal any false securities we may have—trusting in status, background, or religious habits instead of Christ alone.

**2. A willing heart to receive Jesus**

- Ask God to help us trust in His care, like a mother hen gathering her chicks, instead of striving for control.

**3. Urgency to respond before the door closes.**

- Pray that we will not only respond but also help others see the urgency of responding to Jesus.