



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 73 "Understanding the Heart of Jesus" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 13:31-35 ESV

Lament over Jerusalem

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!' "

Intro to Kingdom Work, you can't escape it, so let's figure out how to do it!

1. He lets nothing stand in His way (31-32).

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.

The Pharisees, well it seems really nice that they have showed up to warn Jesus about Herod. Now it is divided about how to view there attempt at warning Jesus. Did they actually care more about saving Jesus' life because they didn't like Herod? Or possibly were they trying to scare Jesus off using Herod as the boogie man. Either excuse doesn't make much sense because we learned after chp.11



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that the Pharisees had it out for Jesus after He cursed them in front of everybody (11:53-54).

After thinking about it I am of the persuasion that most likely, since Herod has killed JB, it had only made JB more popular and the message he had preached more powerful, “repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand”. **I think they were pretending to be nice so they could keep Herod from trying to kill Jesus making it even harder to control the people.** Whatever the situation is, neither the ruler of Jesus’s homeland, Herod in Galilee, nor the teachers of God, were wanting to help Jesus accomplish His task of preaching the good news, healing the sick, rescuing the captives from the devil and demons, all in the ground breaking work of bringing in the Kingdom of God.

Whatever the reason it backfires on the Pharisees. Jesus not only ignores the threat, but he recruits the Pharisees to be his ‘*do boys*’. “Go tell that fox”, that is not a compliment but a slander against the ruling authority over Jesus home providence. The **fox is a nuisance of an animal**, a pest to the agricultural community. They are sly and mischievous, they only work alone, prowl around in the night, are scared of all the other animals and will only attack the sick and weak. Their nature is to sow discord in your farmyard and the only way to get him to stop is kill him.

Tell the fox I am doing the things that he is hearing stories about, *I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow - yes they are true.* I am going to keep doing them not just today but tomorrow, and in case you are looking for me I will be around a third day as well, **until I’m finished – translation – *you know where to find me....***

John 10:18 ESV

No 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.

When it comes to completing the work of the Kingdom, what God had laid out for Jesus, He will not stop, He will not rest, He will not detour, and even the devil



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Himself could not persuade Him. Jesus has a remarkable drive, **I admire it so**, to push through all challenges and threats. Nothing stopped Him which makes me love Him, because **I know that nothing ever will.**

Perhaps you're in here today and that has not been your story you have been stopped in your pursuit of trying to live for God, building what was important the Kingdom of Jesus. It wasn't necessarily a forceful stop but because of a disheartening time you gave up.

- Perhaps you got scared off in pursuing God because the devil told you it was pointless to try (think of problems with addictions).
- It may have been that you were planning a good family life and your spouse turned out to be less interested in God than you were.
- Your parents are so judgmental, and it seems you can't do anything right, so you look at your efforts through their eyes instead of how God sees you.
- Or maybe you even tried working for a church or you trusted a church leader that left you deflated and defeated.

Well, let me just say family I have encountered all of that and then some.

- If you are waiting to master your addictions before trying to live for Jesus it will never happen. **The way to overcome your desires for the flesh is to constantly bombard them with affections for Jesus through living for Him!**
- It may be that your spouse is not the best helper in pursuing God. The way you make them better is you model Godly obedience to show HE's worth it. Paul tells us in Corinthians it is through the effort of a Christians spouse that the home is blessed, AND that spouse may come to Christ (1 Cor. 7:16).
- It may be your parents don't approve of you. That's fine, if you care too much about their approval then you show yourself not to be of Christ anyway, (Luke 14:26).
- And if you are waiting from a leader in the church to acknowledge what you do, who you are, **or to tell you sorry** then you may be waiting a long time. We wait so often on church leaders to take notice of us that what we don't realize is that **we have elevated that person to the position of God for it is**



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their approval that matters. We also don't realize that if they are of Christ then it is against God alone they have sinned and they have received forgiveness for a sins already.

Jesus didn't let anything stand in His way, between His Kingdom work, for it was what brought God to you. There is nothing in between you and trying again to do something for the Kingdom of God because any attempt at trying to live for God is a positive movement. God uses all our efforts to reveal His glory, nothing is wasted in our lives.

2. He is serious about goals and deadlines (33).

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.'

Jesus is like, no matter what the fox thinks, no matter what you pharisees want, I **have a schedule to keep.** It all has me pointed at Jerusalem.

Now the reality of this statement is not that Jesus is making a historically non-accurate statement. There have been a few prophets killed away from Jerusalem (2 Chron. 24:20-22; Jer. 26:20-23; 38:4-6). But he was actually using irony, or **using sarcasm**, to build out this point. He was headed towards Jerusalem where, He being the prophet, was going to be killed by those in that city. He who by earthly Kingdom standards was the rightful ruler. He who was by heavenly standards is what the temple was all about, the point of God's connection to the earth. Jesus was going to the place where He should be welcomed above everyone else, yet it was in this place that He was to be killed.

It wasn't Herod He was concerned with, it wasn't even the pharisees, it was the ones that ran the temple that would be His greatest accusers. BUT, please know Jesus wasn't walking into Jerusalem under any false pretenses. He was going there to die for that was the plan, there was a time frame for that to happen, he had a schedule to keep. This is **closely related to the third thing that is directly related to Jesus heart.**



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3. He works in light of His sufferings (34a).

³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

Man, I have a hard time working through a headache and here's Jesus pushing through the fact that what was meant to be 'The' City on the Hill pointing to God was in actuality full of people headed to Hell. **Just like Habakkuk's Lamenting here we see Luke has recorded Jesus' lamenting, and it's over the same thing!** In Jerusalem, no one wants Him, no one understands Him, like the Father, no one is there that understands the tragedy of the moment. It is the realization that the city He was born to represent, redeem, and reclaim is the city that above everyone else in the world wants Him dead and gone.

So, now we see are getting a fuller picture of our Lord; He is not swayed by threats and He sees all of life on a timeline only He can see. Now we see His incredible **“Indominable Will”** push through not just threats and physical danger but through the emotional pain of His rejection and His Father's rejection. Not only this but He is working through the disappointment of Him being so close to His objective and no one is able to share it with Him and very soon everyone will think He was a fool!

Oh, how hard it had to be to keep His mouth shut, not to upon entering in Jerusalem not stop at the cleaning of the temple but to clean up the whole city. To prove His Father was worth it, to prove He was worth it! What suffering to have undergone! **It's the pain of people not knowing the Hell you go through for them.**

Many times, this is what triggers our hearts to surrender, for our spirits to call it quits. **What does it matter if no one knows what I am sacrificing here!**

- My spouse doesn't know how hard it is not to look at porn, shop, & play every day, especially with more time on my hands in light of this pandemic.
- My children have no idea how hard it is to overcome the feelings of failure as I try to replace their professionally trained teacher at school.



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- No one sees how hard it is to budget my checkbook right now and still give out of obedience joyfully to God.
- My family has no idea how hard it is to try and read God’s Word and pray when I don’t understand half of what I read.
- No one gets how hard I am struggling right now with feelings of stress, depression, anxiety, and fear.

No one knows what I am going through, how I feel, how much I want to quit and how hard this is! **Yes - there is, His name is Jesus!** **Stop right now in His name, stop believing the lie, that no one knows!** He is right now empathizing with you, He’s praying for you, and the fact that your heart is looking for Him right now is because He’s calling to you!

Go to Him in prayer, confess your need for Him, believe that He will strengthen you for you we are told that **“the joy of the Lord is your strength”** (Neh. 8:10). **Translation** - being made aware of your shortcomings, being made aware of His strength, and being made aware of **your need for Him IS YOUR JOY**. Don’t miss this opportunity to be changed this morning church!

4. He is protective of those He loves (34b).

In case your still not picking up what I am laying down for you this morning Jesus doesn’t love you with reluctance, **He loves you with a passionate resolve.**

³⁴ ... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

I know only a hand full of us in here have had the pleasure of being around chickens and watching their behavior. If you have ever watched a mother Hen with her chicks it is a warm thing to behold. When the chicks feel threatened, they will immediately run to the hen under her wings. It provides not just protection but a place to hide. The Hen immediately begins to squawk calling for help and is prepared to defend those hatchlings. If help doesn’t come, she is prepared to offer her life.



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Even in the midst of our weakness this morning Jesus doesn't reluctantly watch over us, **He is prepared to lay down His life for us.** You also see in the text that Jesus **does care for the lost**, He's not an indiscriminate and uninterested God. **It pains the Lord that people can know of Him but not come to Him for help.** Perhaps that is your story today; you started listening, thinking that only Christians can get help, but my friend **the message of the Gospel is that we all were as sheep that had gone astray.**

Maybe you think so far today that Christians are weak – **yes & no** we have just discovered like the Apostle Paul that when we are weak Jesus is strong (2 Corinthians 12:10). We rely in Him to save us for we know we can't save ourselves. **No one is born a Christian, and it may be that Jesus is offering you His protection today.** Would you heed this offer today? Do you want to be able to run to Him when you are weak? Pray to Him and He will answer you....

5. He is motivated by the finish line (35).

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!' "

In the end there is one more thing that I am very glad to know about Jesus. How He is motivated...

Have you ever dieted? That's a crazy question isn't it? Of course, you have! Here's another more intriguing question for you. **Have you ever hit the goals of that diet?** If you have ever accomplished a diet regimen many times it is only because you have chopped it up into small segments, taking time for cheat days for rewards. But even in the end the reason you went on the diet wasn't real appealing. Most people start diets just to lose a few pounds. **But if you start a diet just to lose a few pounds you are destined to gain them back for you had no permanent goal in your head.** People make real body changes when they change for a reason, when they keep the long game in mind then they can actually hit the goals and maintain those changes.



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There is one more thing that I am so impressed by Jesus today. **When he set out to save sinners, to go to the cross, to die for our sins, to live that perfect life in order to win the right to be resurrected He did with an end goal in His sight!** He looks forward from 2,000 years to a time in the future that we can't see yet. He sees the day that His people, a remnant of the Jews, will finally see Him as their Messiah (Psalm 118:26). It is a day when there will be a body of Jewish Christians that live in Jerusalem, that no longer live by the Old Covenants, that call Gentile Christians brothers and sisters; It's this day that Jesus sees, when He will come into Zion one more time, **not to die but to live as Good and King!** He sees it! He believes it will happen and because of that He is not just satisfied with temporary victories, **but the victory of the Kingdom of God is what drives Him.** **THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH!** Jesus will have another triumphant entry and this time He is coming to stay!

My family today you may be feeling a little down about how you have been living in the Kingdom that Jesus has brought. But take courage, take heart, lift your head again to the skies and feel His gaze upon you. **Your failures do not deter your Lord, for your Lord uses them to bring you one step closer to His ultimate victory!** He is bringing you along in the shadow of His wings, protecting you in your failures till you see the day that makes it all worth it! When you see your King take His throne then all your painful moments will be turned to joy for you will know they were part of the journey to bring you to that glorious end!

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that started the work of Salvation in His Son and will continue to call the lost to Him.



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Go in the name of the Son, that through His strength of will won His throne giving us the right to be called children/heirs of God.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that helps us to call on Him in times of need to do our work and helps us testify to the glory of His name.