



At that very hour some Pharisees came to Jesus 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, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside Jerusalem.’”

~Luke 13:31-33

## **Move to the Center – 10 Minutes**

*Note: Times are just suggestions to help structure your time. Feel free to adjust to suit your situation best.*

Take time to center yourselves. Check in with each other to see how the past week has been and what you all are hoping for in the week to come. Write down any prayer requests that are lifted up. Then, pray your own prayer, inviting God to be present with you during this time of study and conversation (including any prayer requests that were surfaced) or use the following prayer:

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today. May our hearts be open to your movement in our lives and world. Thank you for sending Jesus to us, and for showing us that he has experienced the fullness of humanity. Help us see your heart and determination, and to follow your example of actively loving the world. Amen.

## **Move into the Text – 20 Minutes**

Read the Luke 13:31-35. If you have a favorite translation, feel free to read from that one instead of from the bulletin. Once the passage has been read out loud, take 2 or 3 minutes to re-read it silently, and/or take time to ponder, letting the Spirit guide your brief meditation. Then, use the following questions to guide your conversation. Feel free to ask other questions about the reading, too.

- What do you find most surprising about this reading?
- Does anything in the reading bring you a particular hope?
- Does anything in the reading trouble you, or make you uncomfortable?

In Luke 9:51 we see Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem, but he doesn’t arrive until the end of chapter 19. The journey is long. Along the way, he teaches those who are willing to listen, he heals people, he speaks prophetic words against those in power, and all along the way, he attempts to get his disciples to see what his work is really about.

- In today’s reading, the Pharisees come to Jesus with a warning – and it appears to be a warning in good faith. “Herod is after you – he’s going to kill you!” they say. Jesus is unfazed. Indeed, he utters a provocative statement: “Go and tell that fox...” Why do you think he called Herod a fox? What are foxes known for?
- Jesus seems clearly focused on his purpose and mission. What is his short-term mission? What is his longer-term mission?
- Notice the repetitive statement: “today, tomorrow, and the next/third day.” Jesus is grounded in his work. Also, he is clearly aware of a larger movement. What is he doing on these days? Do you hear echoes from other areas of Scripture?
- Jesus uses a beautiful and feminine image for his love of Jerusalem, and by extension, the world. Why do you think he uses the image of a hen with his lament?

## **Move into Today – 20 Minutes**

*Take time to think about how the reading intersects with the world we live in today, as well as how it connects to your own life.*

Jesus, as we have noted, has his eyes set on Jerusalem. He is very intent on getting there, but he has work to do in the meantime. And, he is not going to let anything get in his way. The threats of a ruler won't stop him. The threat of a city that is ready to execute him won't stop him. Nothing will stop him.

- When you think about Jesus' striking focus on accomplishing his daily work, while also keeping his eye on his ultimate goal, what is most jarring to you – the threats from political giants? Threats from the city he laments and loves? Something else? Why?
- It might be striking to you that Jesus calls Herod a fox and then uses the imagery of a mother hen protecting her brood. What characteristics do mother hens have?
- In this story we need to recognize that Jesus, himself, is the main actor and driver in the narrative. At the same time, what can we learn about our own walk as disciples of Jesus? Are we called to a similar journey?
- What could you be doing today to fulfill your purpose and/or to help bring the Reign of God into clearer view?
- How can you plan for tomorrow (or the next few days/weeks/months) to grow your connection to God and to the world God so loves?
- What do you hope people will say to or about you when you arrive at your own "third day" (your own resurrection from death)?

## **Move into the Future – 5 Minutes**

Think about how you might keep this passage in mind throughout the rest of the week. Can you develop a mantra reminding you that God is with you in your own struggles? What things in your daily life might remind you that God will not let anything get in the way of God's love for you? Can you identify something new each day that work against God moving in your life or heart? What might you do to remove that barrier?

Each time you see a bird, you might ponder the bird's tenacity in caring for it's young. Let that image remind you of God wrapping you in protective wings, and wonder if God might also be challenging you to jump out of the nest of your comfort zone.

## **Move to Adieu – 5 minutes**

Spend some time reflecting on your conversation before leaving. You can ask yourselves these or similar questions:

- What went well? What could have gone better? What was your "Top Take Home Idea"?