

Small Group Material Lent 2019

Learning from Jesus 2

Our Resolve – Luke 13.31 - end

Looking at the way that Jesus models the resolve to persevere in his calling in the face of adversity

Welcome (10 mins)

Can you think of a time when you resolved to do something, and someone came along and poured cold water on your plan? How did you react?

Worship (10 mins)

Meditate on the Lord our helper when we are hard pressed.

Read Psalm 118 1-8 26 - 29

Sing or listen to a hymn or chorus

Suggestion

(Words at end) :-

Give thanks to the Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUH_NzfRmbs

Word (50 mins)

Read Luke 13: 31 – end

Questions with **Leaders' Supplementary Notes** in italics and see below for additional material and suggestions to aid discussion if you find them helpful.

1. Why do you think these Pharisees warned Jesus to leave?

Were they friends? Or acting in collusion with Herod? It is not clear but perhaps we can take inference from the reference to Herod as a fox, And from Jesus's dismissal of their warning.

2. What does Jesus think of Herod? Why?

Herod Antipas, also known as Herod the Tetrarch and King Herod, had killed John the Baptist. We assume the term fox means sly, but an alternative Hebraic meaning here may be the opposite of a lion, ie a weak leader; it is a scornful term

3. The previous verses, 22-30, tell us that Jesus was travelling through the towns and villages teaching, when the Pharisees came up. If you had been there, one of his followers, what would you have made of his words in verses 32 and 33.
4. With what attitude and emotions does Jesus meet the opposition and unbelief of men?

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem at least three times, See Luke 19. 41-44, and Matt 23 37-39 (words almost identical to those in Luke 13) The tragedy of lost opportunity. He is not willing that any should perish ! Timothy 2 3-6, 2 Peter 3.9
"I would"... "but you would not"

Think of specific occasions where we read that Jesus would, but others would not. (ie would not enter by the narrow gate – look back to verses 22-30) The rich young ruler? Luke 18 18-23 *Felix, Governor of Caesarea, who is afraid of judgment, and dismisses Paul until a "convenient time" to talk again. There are other times to talk. But one day, two years later, Felix is abruptly transferred out of Caesarea and his opportunity to be saved is gone. He never sees Paul again (Acts 24:24-27).*

5. What would you have done in the face of death threats?

6. What can we learn from Him on this?

Witness (and during the week) (10 mins)

Focus on The Lord's Prayer, especially those verses which link in to our texts:- Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Say the Lord's Prayer together slowly, pausing as you reach those sections for everyone to reflect silently on them in the light of what they may have seen afresh in this study.

Continue to Pray for conversations which will lead to opportunities to invite people to services, groups or other occasions as we prepare through Lent for Easter

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
With a mighty hand
and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise
Yeah
Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever
Forever
From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
By the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise
Yeah
Forever God...

Leaders' Supplementary Notes on Luke 13: 31-end

Herod's Murderous Intentions (13:31-33)

The mention of Jerusalem recalls the previous passage, about Jesus "teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (13:23). Jesus knows he will meet his death in Jerusalem, so he is undeterred

by rumours that Herod will try to kill him. He has already "taken up his cross," so threat of death has no terrors for him. The meaning of the Hebraic idiom, "today, tomorrow, and the next day" has been disputed, but it probably means that his ministry will extend for a short, but limited period of time.

Lament Over Jerusalem (13:34-35)

The final passage is a lament, directed towards Jerusalem. It is filled with both love and pain.

It is a tender entreaty to a city that Jesus loves and grieves over. She treats her prophets poorly, yet God loves her deeply.

In the next phrase, it seems that Jesus is prophetically echoing the heart of his Father: "How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" Notice the feminine analogy to God as a "hen" gathering her chicks under her wings to protect them.

Jerusalem's judgment is desolation; they won't see Jesus again until they say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (13:35). When is that?

Jesus is quoting Psalm 118,25-27 the same passage quoted in Matthew's Gospel at the Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:9): But here probably refers to the Second Coming.

The picture on the front of the leaflet is the view over present day Jerusalem taken through the window of the Church of Dominus Fleuit ("the Lord wept") the church designed in the shape of a teardrop which recalls Christ's grief over the future fate of Jerusalem at the time of the Triumphal entry. Photos of the full window and of the church can be found online.