

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Pss. 57:1; 106:47; 118:26; Songs 2:15; Isa. 27:12-13; 52:11-12; 53:4-6; Jer. 12:7-8, 17; 22:5-9; 31:7-14; Dan 7:13-14; Matt. 21:9, 11; 23:37-39; Lk 3:1; 5:17; 9:7-9; 11:47-52; John 10:11-18; 12:23-24; Acts 7:51-53; Heb 2:10

Study Summary

When Jesus is told to leave the vicinity by the Pharisees, who warn that Herod is seeking to kill Him, He refuses to listen. Determined to finish His work and arrive at Jerusalem, Jesus foreshadows His coming death and His vindication as Savior and Lord when He returns to set all things right.

Historical & Theological Background

Herod: Antipas son of Herod who ruled from 4 BC to AD 39. He was a puppet king who ruling on behalf of Rome. He in prisoned and killed John the Baptist and either wanted Jesus killed or hoped that a threat of His life would be enough to keep Jesus out of the region.

Pharisees: were “members of a Jewish party that exercised strict piety according to Mosaic law.” They “were a sect within early Judaism, becoming active around 150 BC and enduring as a distinct party until “around AD 135.” “The Pharisees were concerned above all with the sanctification of God’s Name” “and with the separation from all that was unholy. Their name also alludes to this emphasis (Φαρισαῖοι and *perûšîm* refer to ‘separated ones’).” They were “a movement concerned with the sanctification of every aspect of one’s life. To this end they” added their own laws “as a fence around the written Torah in order to” keep people from breaking God’s Law “and also to give the average person access to salvation.” They “were not numerous,” but “were very influential” and “were the unofficial religious leaders of” Jesus’ time, some of whom “spearheaded the opposition to Jesus.” In light of their opposition to Jesus, it is likely the Pharisees of this text were working with Herod to scare Jesus off or used Herod’s threat as an attempt to do so.

[Works referenced and cited: Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*; Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*; Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*; NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible, GE D.A. Carson]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 13:31-35 slowly and prayerfully.

Ask yourself these questions: How does Jesus treat His enemies? How do I treat my enemies? Am I expectantly awaiting Christ’s return?

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 13:31-35

Big Idea: The Rejected Prophet and Savior of the World

Fallen Condition Focus: Rejection

- Why do the Pharisees warn Jesus (31)? (See Lk 11:53 & HTB)
- What is the meaning of Jesus’ reply (32-33)? (See Lk 9:51 & HTB)
- Why does Jesus connect the death of prophets with Jerusalem (33)? (See 34; Lk 11:47-51 & Acts 7:51-53)
- What does the imagery Jesus uses in 34 reveal about Him? How has Israel responded to Jesus? (See Pss. 57:1 & 106:47)
- What is the outcome of rejecting Jesus (35)? Why does Jesus end by quoting from a Psalm? (See Pss. 118:22-26 & Dan. 7:13-14)
- **Gospel Connection:** Read John 10:11-19. How does Jesus reveal Himself to be our Good Shepherd in this passage?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- Why do so many reject Jesus as Savior and Lord?
- How do you hold in balance the mercy and judgement of Jesus?
- How should the knowledge that Jesus willingly traveled to Jerusalem and His impending death affect our discipleship to Him today?
- Do you see Jesus as your place of refuge and strength? Why or why not? What might it look like to depend on Him in very area of your life?
- The compassion of Jesus for His enemies is clear in the text (34). How do you treat your enemies? How might you follow the example of Christ?
- Do you live with an expectancy of Christ’s return? Why or why not? What might be different if this hope was constantly before you?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 13:31-35* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: “So, what now?”

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |