

Embrace the Cross

Luke 13:31-35

- 1) **The Cross as the Focus of our Journey (Luke 9:22-24)**
 - A) Distractions and _____ along the way (v.31)
- 2) **The Focus of Jesus on the Cross (vv.32-33)**
 - A) Finishing the _____ (v.32)
 - B) The Divine “_____” (v.33)
- 3) **A Revelation of the Father’s Heart (v.34)**
 - A) The Fox and the _____ (vv.32&34)
- 4) **The Consequences of Rejecting the Cross (v.35)**
 - A) Your House is _____ (v.35)

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 - A) Your House is _____ (v.35)

Small Group Questions

1. Notice the two different animal analogies used in v.32 & 34. Why do you think Jesus would choose these animals in particular? Why would Jesus choose a vulnerable animal like a hen and chicks to describe Himself and His people instead of a lion?
2. What was Jesus alluding to in v.32 by the words, "...on the third day I finish my course."? See (Luke 9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 21, 46; Acts 10:40) and John 19:30. In light of this, what was the divine necessity that compelled Jesus to continue His journey to Jerusalem in spite of the threats and obstacles along the way?
3. Consider Jesus' words at the end of v.33. Many prophets were ignored, mistreated, disparaged, and even killed in Jerusalem. Note the following examples: 2 Chronicles 24:19-21, Jeremiah 2:30; 20:1-2; 26:20-23; 1 Kings 18:4; 19:10; Acts 7:54-60. Compare this to Matthew 23:34-38. Now read Revelation 16:5, 17:6, 18:24. What did Jesus want us to understand about Jerusalem?
4. What is your modern day Jerusalem?
5. What do you think it means to be "under God's wings"? What kind of emotion or reaction does this inspire in you?
6. God gave His people a last chance (see 13:6-9), but they ignored His warnings (see 12:54-59; 13:1-9, 24-30) and rejected His signs (see 13:10-17). How did Jesus feel about His rebel people (see 13:34-35)?
7. Jesus knew what was awaiting Him at Jerusalem yet He said, "I must go". His hunger to obey the Father superseded His desire for self-preservation or the good life. How should Jesus' attitude toward the Cross shape our attitude toward suffering? See Hebrews 5:8. How do we 'learn obedience' through suffering?

Tim Keller writes:

"Christianity teaches that, contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine."

Consider 1 Peter 4:12-13,

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

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