

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 13: 31-35

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 13, verses 31 to 35.

Verse 31: "On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, 'Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You.'"

These Pharisees were not giving Jesus a warning out of good intention, but they hoped Jesus would leave the place where they were. Therefore, they brought up Herod, wanting to scare Jesus and tell Him that Herod wanted to kill Him.

Verse 32: "And He said to them, 'Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.'"

Jesus rarely cursed people during His earthly ministry. When the Pharisees told Jesus that Herod wanted to kill Him, He told these Pharisees to go back and tell Herod; Jesus knew very clearly that they were all in it together. Not only did He tell them to tell Herod, but He directly called Herod that fox—in the original Greek it is a female fox. We know that foxes are by nature cunning and suspicious; Jesus had seen through Herod long ago, therefore He directly called him a fox.

Jesus said, "Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected." In other words, whether he wants to kill Me or not, I do not care at all. I have My timetable. Today and tomorrow, I will continue My ministry of casting out demons and healing the sick; this is what the Father sent Me to earth to do. I have My timetable; I have My work; I will continue to cast out demons and heal the sick; on the third day My work will be completed. If you want

to kill Me, if you want to persecute Me, if you want to give Me trouble, I do not care at all.

Verse 33: “Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.”

Jesus’ answer first said: My time is determined by the Father for Me. Today, tomorrow, and the third day, what I am to do has already been fixed; no matter whether there are difficulties ahead on the road, I must do it.

Second, the place. Today, tomorrow, and the day following, I must continue to journey forward. To where? Finally, to Jerusalem. This period was the last six months of Jesus’ ministry; He must go to Jerusalem, to suffer there. Therefore, Jesus also clearly told these Pharisees: You go tell that old fox, My final destination is Jerusalem. Why? Because it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.

Jesus knew very clearly that He came to earth and that the purpose of His ministry was for Him to become the sin-bearing Lamb. He Himself must be hung on the tree so that all people could receive redemption through Him. And this matter must be completed in Jerusalem. Next came Jesus’ sorrowful cry.

Verse 34: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!”

Jerusalem originally means “foundation of peace”; it was obtained in the time of King David and was built to become a testimony of God’s people. Later, in the hands of King Solomon, the temple was also built and completed in Jerusalem; it became God’s dwelling place on earth and God’s testimony on earth. But how quickly Jerusalem lost its testimony.

Because of the stiff-neckedness of the Israelites and the rebellion of the Israelites, but God was willing to save them and willing for them to repent; therefore, in history He frequently sent prophets among them to proclaim God's message. But Jerusalem often killed the prophets and stoned those who were sent to her.

Then Jesus said again, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing." The prophet Isaiah mentioned in Isaiah 31:5 how the Lord would protect Jerusalem. Verse 5 says, "Like birds flying about, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it." God set His heart on Jerusalem; God loved Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is a foundation of peace and a testimony of God's glory.

When Jerusalem fell, when Jerusalem killed the prophets, the Lord still said, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing." When Jesus fulfilled His earthly ministry, how He wanted to save every Israelite; how He wanted to gather the children of Israel, like a hen gathering her chicks under her wings; but they were not willing.

Verse 35a: "See! Your house is left to you desolate;"

Because they continued to rebel, ultimately God gave them up. One day your house will be left desolate. This indeed was fulfilled in A.D. 70. Titus, the crown prince of Rome, led his army into Jerusalem and set the whole city on fire; even the temple did not have one stone left upon another. Therefore, Jesus also said sorrowfully:

Verse 35b: "and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

When people would not listen to what Jesus proclaimed, Jesus continued to wait. Until one day the Israelites would say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" According to Paul's light, the majority of the Israelites will remain stiff-

necked until the time when Jesus returns. When the whole nation of Israel is surrounded and attacked at Armageddon and is almost about to be wiped out, at that time Jesus will come back from the Mount of Olives; His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, and the Mount of Olives will split in two; and the remaining Israelites will escape through the fissure. When they turn back and look, the Messiah who has come is the Jesus whom they pierced; only then will they repent, and only then will they say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

This is the story of the Israelites. But in the New Testament, just as Jerusalem was the testimony of the Israelites, the church today is also the testimony before God of every saved person. How God loves His church; how God frequently sends some gifted saints into His house and into His church to proclaim His heart's desire, to open up His word, so that God's children can truly know God.

When the church becomes weak, when the church does not honor the Lord as great, when the church does not listen to God's message, Jesus likewise issues a sorrowful call: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings." Every one of us who knows God and belongs to God should immediately answer and exalt the name of the Lord: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Because the church is His body and He is the Head of the church; the church must be a place where the Lord can rest. The church is also the place where God's children come to receive divine supply. God loves His testimony; God loves His church. Let us also learn to be full of praise to Him in the church: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You! You not only saved each one of us and brought us back to You; You also placed us in Your church. The church is Your heart's desire; the church is Your body; the church is the object of Your care and concern. Let us also learn in the church to coordinate with all the saints and together be Your glorious testimony. Bless the church I belong to, that it may be a church according to Your heart, a place where You can rest, and a place where all of us can grow in life. Thank You. I pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.