

Sermon – Sun, Mar 13, 2022 – Lent 2

Luke 13:31-35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

II Esdras 1:28-30

‘Thus says the Lord Almighty: Have I not entreated you as a father entreats his sons or a mother her daughters or a nurse her children, so that you should be my people and I should be your God, and that you should be my children and I should be your father? I gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But now, what shall I do to you? I will cast you out from my presence.



Sermon – March 13, 2022- Lent 2 – St James

In this morning's Gospel the mood is one of fear, of approaching danger. But alongside the danger, is the resolve of our Lord, and his deep desire to offer safety.

Jesus is the light in the darkness. We know that. But now, the darkness is encroaching and clouds are gathering. The Pharisees warn Jesus that Herod wants to kill him. The Pharisees cast long shadows themselves. Their motives are suspect ...they want Jesus out of the way.

But Jesus is not afraid. Warned by the Pharisees that Herod wants to kill him he says:

“Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

Our Lord is not intimidated. He is quite brazen, calling Herod a fox and telling him to ‘Listen’...he remains focused on carrying out his work.

Our Lord's resolve in the face of danger encourages us to rethink what we understand about being safe. Jesus was resolved to be the True Prophet of God, to take on the role of the Suffering Servant for the world. His resolve seems to come from knowing his death was approaching and unavoidable. This gives him a kind of safety to be bold in his mission.

Jesus surely does not have *safety* in this world and its foxes. Those with power will try him and execute him like a thief on a cross.

But despite this...Christ sticks to his purpose - to make *us safe*. He compares himself to the mother hen gathering her chicks to protect them under her wings. Our Lord may have encountered this image in the apocryphal book of Esdras. This is what is written in Esdras

II Esdras 1:28-30

‘Thus says the Lord Almighty: Have I not entreated you as ...a nurse her children, so that you should be my people and I should be your God, and that you should be my children and I should be your father? I gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

Yes, he is headed to Jerusalem, but it is on God's business and for God's purposes. Yes, he will die, but it will be for the safety of his beloved.

In his autobiography, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. expresses the same resolve we see in Jesus. In his chapter about the events in Selma, especially the police brutality and public violence and murders while they attempted to march to Montgomery, he describes the painstaking deliberations he and his colleagues had while deciding what was best to do as they stayed committed to non-violent action. Before setting out for another attempt at crossing the bridge on Tuesday, March 9, 1965, King told those gathered,

“I say to you this afternoon that I would rather die on the highway of Alabama than make a butchery of my conscience. I say to you, when we march, don't panic and remember that we must remain true to nonviolence. I'm asking everybody in the line, if you can't be nonviolent, don't get in here. If you can't accept blows without retaliating don't get in the line. If you can accept it out of your commitment to nonviolence, you will somehow do something for this nation that may well save it. If you can accept it, you will leave those state troopers bloodied with their own barbarities. If you can accept it, you will do something that will transform conditions here in Alabama.

We see the same resolve in Ukraine today. Many both Ukrainian and others around the world are facing danger with resolve. Many people are doing amazing things, taking risks to help refugees crossing the border at different spots...even when ceasefires fail.

A German man and his daughter travel over 1000 km to a border point to offer 6 people transportation back to Frankfurt.

<https://youtu.be/Q0TmRsz7Kxs>

Spanish-American chef José Andrés is the founder of [World Central Kitchen](#), a non-profit which travels the globe to provide meals after natural disasters.

He's currently on the ground in Poland helping to feed the refugees arriving from Ukraine, while World Central Kitchen CEO and filmmaker Nate Mook is working with his team in Ukraine.

José Andrés is calling from an area outside Lviv, Ukraine. To get flour to the bakery, Andrés had to rent a car in Poland, where he is staying, drive it to the border, transfer the bags to another vehicle that he had rented inside Ukraine and then drive it to its destination. “The car companies, they don’t let you bring them into Ukraine for obvious reasons,” he told The Washington Post in an interview.

Supermodel Bella Hadid is following her sister Gigi's example and will donate some of her fashion week earnings to Ukrainian relief saying interactions with other models and behind the scenes staff have 'really shown me the strength and perseverance of the people around me who are going through pure terror

During these times of fear and danger, let us walk in the blessed safety of Our Lord who once and for all has cleared the path for us. Amen.