

THE HARDEST PART

Curiouser and Curiouser



GROWTH GUIDE MARCH 16, 2025

*The First Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Luke 13:31-35*

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people, gave a prominent place to women and showed Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

CONTEXT

Jesus continues his ministry, traveling throughout towns and villages, teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was Israel's largest city, and its spiritual and political capitol. Herod Antipas was the ruler of Galilee. His father was Herod the Great who was King 37-4 B.C. and killed the baby boys in Bethlehem after Jesus' birth. Herod Antipas had John the Baptist beheaded, and judged Jesus during his trial.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 13:31-35. What stands out to you?
2. Do you think the Pharisees were protecting Jesus by warning him about Herod or did they have another motive?
3. What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees?
4. Jerusalem would reject Jesus just like it had rejected prophets before. Read the following scriptures about Jerusalem's history of rejecting God's prophets: 1 King 19:10, 2 Chronicles 24:19, Jeremiah 2:30, Jeremiah 26:20-23.

5. Read verses 34 and 35 again. The emotion Jesus is expressing is called a lament. A lament is an expression of sorrow, grief, pain, or confusion. What did Jesus long for? Jerusalem should have been receptive to Jesus and his preaching but they would eventually reject him. Read Matthew 21:1-11 and compare how Jesus was received with Jesus' words of lament.
6. Jesus must have been heartbroken. He had great compassion and desired relationship with Jerusalem. He longed to protect Jerusalem but Jerusalem would not receive the words of God. He lamented as a mother does when her children turn away from her. Have you experienced a time when you tried to tell someone about Jesus and the person was not interested or rejected the message?
7. Think of a situation where things have not gone as they should. We may even ask where God is. Share if you feel comfortable. Sometimes it's hard to find the words to express how you are feeling. A lament can be helpful in this situation, honestly talking to God and taking your pain, sorrow, grief, or confusion to Him. God can show up in ways we do not expect.
8. Psalm 5:1-3 is a lament. Read it and consider writing your own lament and share it with Jesus in prayer. Jesus desires relationship with us. In fact, He is relentless in His pursuit.

NOTES