

The Gospel of Luke

Christ's Judgment Upon a Rebellious People

Luke 13:31-35

1. **A Serious Warning** (v.31)

Jesus, like many of the prophets who came before Him (Luke 11:49-51), had made many enemies who wanted Him dead. By this point in His ministry, Jesus death was actively being sought by the Herodians, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees (Matt 2:16, 22; 12:14; 26:4; Mark 3:6; 14:1; John 11:53, 57). Very soon, it would be the Romans who would want Him dead as well (Matt 27:24-26).

2. **A Sensational Response** (vs.32-33)

Though Herod had recently had John the Baptist executed, Jesus does not pay any heed to the threat posed by Herod (cf. Mark 6:17ff). Jesus is unwaveringly resolute in His mission to proclaim the kingdom of God while displaying the power of God all the way to Jerusalem. The specific miraculous works that He would persist in doing on His way to Jerusalem continued to verify that He is the promised messiah (cf. Luke 7:22; Acts 2:22; 10:38).

3. **A Sorrowful Lament** (v.34)

It is a sad and uncontested fact that the prophets, whom God had graciously sent to His people, were mistreated and killed by the Jews themselves (Luke 11:48). God is compassionate and merciful and does not delight in apportioning judgment, but rather in the merciful granting of salvation (Jonah 4:9-11; Ezek. 33:11). While the people had individually shown an unwillingness to respond rightly to the preaching of the kingdom (Luke 4:28-29; 8:37; cf. Luke 13:24-27), the religious leaders had erected additional barriers to properly responding to the gospel (cf. Luke 5:20-25; 11:15; John 12:10-11).

4. **A Severe Judgment** (v.35)

God has not forsaken Israel, but in response to their continued rejection of Jesus, He declared that the nation would be left to itself until it does (cf. Matt. 23:38).

Dangerous False Teachings Promoted by Many Who Profess Christ

A. **Grace-less Christianity**

Works-righteousness was the besetting sin of some of Jesus' most steadfast religious opponents, but it is alive and well today in the doctrines of many. Man is not saved by works, but by God's grace through faith alone (Rom 4:4-5; Eph 2:8-9).

B. **Repentance-less Christianity**

Many have reacting against legalism and works righteousness by divorcing the necessity, inevitability, and perpetual increasing manifestation of righteousness in every Christian life (cf. Rom 3:8; 6:1-2). The Christian life is not characterized by the utter absence of sin, but by the characterization of righteousness (1 John 1:6-7).

C. **Judgment-less Christianity**

"Love Wins" is a popular slogan among many who profess faith in Jesus but deny the reality of God's judgment upon sinners. While seeming to magnify the grace and love of God, they erode the basis of these truths and undermine any trust in God's promises of future blessing (Matt 25:46).

D. **Sin-less Christianity**

We live in a culture that is intent upon defining its own version of morality, and many who profess Christ are in hearty agreement (Isa. 5:20; Rom. 1:32). If Jesus came to save sinners, it is imperative that we have the same view of sin as He does.

E. **Authority-less Christianity**

In the name of humility, many who claim to follow Jesus will doggedly refrain from making absolute truth claims about Him and what He has said. Humility is a characteristic that Jesus modeled perfectly, but He did so while authoritatively speaking about the real meaning of Scripture and holding men to account for what it says (Matt. 12:3; 19:4; 22:29-33). God has not given us the Scriptures so that we would be unable to know what He has said; we must be the people who believe in and are confident about what the Bible says (John 17:17).

F. **God-less Christianity**

All of these theological errors are so severe that those who profess them have divorced abandoned the God whose name they profess (cf. Ex 32:1-6). They have separated themselves from the Father, in what He has promised, the Spirit in what He has inspired, and the Son in what He has accomplished.