

Second Sunday in Lent – Luke chapter 13, verses 31 - 35:-

From this Sunday until Easter the Gospel Readings have a ‘confrontational’ feeling about them. We are moving towards the crisis of Holy Week. Our Lord Jesus is now openly at odds with the authorities. In today’s Reading the ruler Herod is apparently seen as the threat. However, the Lord Jesus turns the focus onto the attitude of the supposed ‘City of God’. The very people who, in theory, worshipped the Lord God, so often acted in rebellion against Him and his messengers – see Luke chapter 20, verses 9 – 19.

Luke chapter 13, verse 31:-

It seems strange that these Pharisees were apparently giving the Lord Jesus a friendly warning or did they just want him to go out of their territory? It may be that they were like Nicodemus in John’s Gospel (chapter 3, verse 1 and following) really concerned that Jesus would be killed?

Verses 32 – 33:-

In sending a message like this to Herod, the Lord Jesus seems to be confrontational. Herod was known to be wily and devious as well as cruel. Maybe he even looked fox like, sharp features and tawny hair? Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ trusted his heavenly Father who was in full control of events. Jesus himself claimed that He *“has the power to lay down my life and the power to take it up again: this charge I have received from my Father.”* (Gospel of John chapter 10, verse 18).

The Lord’s work and witness would continue until its appointed time was complete, He would then set his face to go up to Jerusalem to His destiny. See Luke chapter 18, verse 31- 34.

Verses 34 – 35:-

Enmity towards Jesus was not just from one person, Herod, but from Jerusalem, the site of the Temple and the centre of the worship of the Lord God. The Lord Jesus longed for the people to repent. His cry from the heart - *“and you would not!”*. This is echoed on His entry into Jerusalem on that first ‘Palm Sunday’ the people were rejoicing and He was weeping knowing what was coming to that ‘Beloved City’! See Luke chapter 19, verses 41 – 44.

He now turns his back on Jerusalem until the day of the Triumphant Entry.

“He came to his own home, and people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the power to become children of God”. Gospel of John chapter 1, verses 11 – 12

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem”. - Psalm 122, verse 6

A Prayer for Reconciliation between Nations

Loving God, we pray for reconciliation and peace between nations that have conflicting interests in Jerusalem. Soften the hearts of leaders and diplomats, so that they may seek diplomatic solutions and peaceful dialogue. Help them to prioritize the well-being of the people over political agendas. Guide them to work towards a peaceful resolution that honours the aspirations and rights of all nations involved.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

A Prayer for the Fulfilment of God’s Promises

Heavenly Father, we stand on Your promises regarding Jerusalem.

You have declared it to be a city of peace and a place where Your glory dwells.

We pray for the fulfilment of Your promises in bringing lasting peace to Jerusalem.

Let Your peace flow like a river, touching every heart and reconciling every division.

We trust in Your faithfulness to bring about a future where Jerusalem shines as a beacon of peace and unity.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.