



## Sermon

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March 17, 2019

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When it comes to planning trips, I become a nut. I review all options and figure out a week's worth of where we are going to eat and when. I plan each of the activities and even places where to pull over for travel. "Dad. I have to go to the bathroom." "Sorry, son, but we need to go another 40 miles before you can do that. You'll be fine." "Hehe."

Okay, maybe not that bad. But I do try to keep a schedule to maximize the free time and ensure the highest level of safety for my family.

Moreover, unless flying, I always bring an espresso machine. My family looks at me strangely and sometimes feel that I suck the fun out of the trip because of my crazy itineraries. However, I have learned to give the appearance that I am not too detailed oriented and plan less: poor kids, poor Jess.

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This passage today is an inside snapshot of traveling with Jesus between the healings from illness and removing of demonic powers along the way. This journey in Luke started in Luke 9:51 after the Transfiguration and will continue until He gets to Jerusalem.

Jesus was fully aware of the perceived dangers, yet He also knows what others did not know was that it was not the will of Herod, instead it was His will of fulfilling what He was called to do, die on the cross for our sins so that He can rise and bring us to eternal salvation. He was not going to hide or tone down His approach. He is fulfilling what the Father called Him explicitly to do. Wherever He goes, He also brings signs of God's kingdom.

Healing and deliverance are critical aspects of this passage. The cryptic today, tomorrow, and the third day is the very fact that it follows, today healing, tomorrow deliverance, and the third day the Resurrection. For every healing and deliverance is an in-breaking of God's Kingdom into this world.

It is also essential to see His lament over Jerusalem; He never looked at them as those who condemned and hung Him on the cross; instead, He viewed them as a bunch of vulnerable chicks that needed a mother hen to hover over them.

In this passage the word, *Thelo*, was used three times indicating desire. First, that Herod desires to kill Jesus. Second, that Jesus desires to gather Jerusalem under His

wings. Third and last, that Jerusalem did not wish to be gathered.

Then the passage asks us, “What do we desire?” To follow Jesus calls us to the cross and we must be ready to love those who desire to kill us, we must also be ready to love those who desire to reject us for following Jesus. What is our desire: to retaliate or to love? To encourage an attitude of a hen over her chicks or to say to each their own? Following desires against Christ has consequences, as we see in Jerusalem. This passage helps us on our Lenten journey of making Jesus' desires, our desires, and in so doing follow Him not to the cross but through the cross to be in God's Kingdom.

The itinerary for us is set; what do you desire?  
AMEN.

Fr. Jeff +