



Ask participants to recall a time that they felt like they were in physical danger. (Be careful to temper by sharing a personal example that is not too extreme.)

"At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' And he said to them, 'Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'" Luke 13:31-35 ESV

Here we see that Jerusalem is set in the mind and heart of Jesus. He was making His way to the Temple, but the people were the most important to Him.

Here is an overview of the passage -

1. The Pharisees are saying to Jesus that He is in danger in Jerusalem - Herod wants to kill Him. Many believe that these Pharisees were actually for Jesus rather than against Him. Most of the time the Pharisees that addressed Jesus were usually rebuked. He does not rebuke here.
2. Jesus desires to nurture Jerusalem. Most of His ministry has been in the regions outside of the city of Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is forsaken/abandoned - looking back in Jeremiah, the weeping prophet talked about the people abandoning God so they were overtaken by Babylon. The first temple was destroyed around 586BC. Herod rebuilt it and now is seeking to kill Jesus. The second temple is destroyed in 70AD. Roman General Titus overtook Jerusalem - forsaken again.
Ask, have you ever returned to the same sin again and again? (Of course, we all have but this is a good reminder that when we are quick to judge and condemn, we all have been guilty of returning to the same kind of sins in our lives.)
4. Jesus is coming back again. This is the same proclamation as in Matthew 23. *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.* (Shades of Palm Sunday)

Observations

1. Jesus is not in danger because God is sovereign. God has the perfect plan. ***Ask, How do you remind yourself in difficult circumstances that God has the perfect plan and can be trusted?***
2. Jesus desires to nurture prodigals, but He allows them to run. (He longs for Jerusalem to be different but He does not force His will on the city or on people.) Don't allow your fear to cause you to be unbiblical, unfaithful. Prodigals are going to run. You don't have to chase. (Reminder of the two prodigal sons - one physically ran and the other ran in his spirit/heart.)
3. We are forsaken when we ignore the Word of God. John says, Jesus is the Word. In the Old Testament, the Word was the words of the prophets of God. Those prophets were usually killed so Jesus says they will kill Him too. ***Ask, what kind of circumstances have caused you to return to the Word of God in your life?***

4. Jesus is coming back again and every knee will bow. We will all submit to the King.
2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
Ask, So what is God's timing?

The Know and To-Do List

1. Know God has a plan and it is perfect. - We serve a promise keeping God of perfectly timed delay.
2. Know you are safe under His wing. He desires to gather and keep you. He is really good at saving and protecting you through life's circumstances.
3. Do not ignore the Word of God. You are forsaken if you do.
4. Bow to the King. We are not abandoned when we bow. It does require surrender. And it is inevitable because every knee will bow and tongue confess that He is Lord. **Read Philippians 2:9-11.**

Reminder - Last week was the Narrow Door. **Ask, What was in the backpack (full of other crowns not of The King) that you gave up to kneel and bow to the King?** Those other crowns puff us up rather than humble us.

Ask, How might you reshape and re-gift the grace you have received. What might it look like for you to go the extra distance this week.

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.