



## Grain

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.” Dalai Lama

## Field

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

<sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” Luke 13:31-35

## Thoughts

Jesus just heard his life was threatened when he talked about needing to focus on his own business. What about the danger? I would have paused longer with the warning to get out of town. Saying, “I must be on my way” seems like a spiritual exercise when faced with bullying forces and distractions.

Jesus was approached by friends, though at least some present would likely have been collaborators with the occupying government’s values. His friends or frenemies gave a solid warning about Herod. Jesus, with his sensitivity to the political world, knew his time wouldn’t end just yet but that danger was indeed ahead. In the heart of Israel, where Jesus resisted abusive power and also where deep aspects of his religion were reflected, he would be killed. To avoid generalizing based on the Gospel’s particularities, we may recall that another white American killed Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi was killed by an Indian Hindu, and Malcolm X was murdered by another American black Muslim.

Jesus knew he was threatened from the outside and inside of his spiritual circles. In response to Herod he said, “Go and tell that fox for me...”. Sorry to the foxes, but being called one in first century Israel was pretty bad. Jesus wasn’t held back by the drama of that fox, but remained on his way to fulfill his purpose. And then suddenly he softened with love and lament for people who listened to distracting messages. Jesus was like a mother wanting to gather those people and draw them back to their way.

In the midst of the turmoil caused by the Herods of this world, those who provoke conflict and war, and within our own inner noise, we try to respond, “I must be on my way.” Perhaps we are witnessing that type of resolve in some of the leaders in Ukraine, moving so many to speak out against the atrocities against the people and renewing our hope in humanity.

“I must be on my way.” We don’t have to say it gritting our teeth, or at least it’s easier not to when we are physically safe, but knowing God is naturally drawing us on our way. Jesus is gathering us into our purpose to love in our personal and public lives. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy