

GOOD ENOUGH: So Much Is Out of Our Control

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Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' 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. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." 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! 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." '

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Jesus leans on a feminine image for God ("hen"). There are many ways to speak about God in the bible, and some, like this one, are ignored or minimized or just unknown. Reflect on how this image could be liberating and healing for all people, and especially women.
3. Jesus responds to the murderous desire of Herod with determination to keep going and compassion for all the people of Jerusalem. What in your life or in our world requires a challenging mix of determination and compassion right now?
4. So much is out of our control. Jesus wanted a very different outcome in Jerusalem, but history and experience taught him his path would come to rejection and death. He let go of trying to control people. What are some ways you are trying to control people or outcomes? How might you let that go this Lent?

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