

The Fox, The Mother Hen, and the Chicks"

Luke 13:31-35

Today's Question: Which character are you most like: a fox, a mother hen, or a little chick?

Luke 13:31-35 (NKJV); ³¹ On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You."

³² And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' ³³ Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.

Jesus Laments over Jerusalem

³⁴ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until *the time* comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! "

The Fox, The Mother Hen, and the Chicks

1. The _____ -Someone who is _____, cunning, and _____ (v. 31-32).

- Notice that the Pharisees seem to want to get rid of Jesus. Why did they want to get rid of Jesus?

Scripture Insight: "Throughout Luke, the Pharisees are presented in a negative light. Why would the Pharisees have wanted to protect Jesus in this instance? It seems best to understand the incident as the Pharisees' pretext to get rid of Jesus. Jesus had publicly stated that His **goal** was to reach Jerusalem, and He was well on His way. Thus the Pharisees were apparently trying to deter Him from His task, to scare Him into setting aside His goal."¹

- Notice that Jesus calls Herod a fox.
- Why a fox? What traits does a fox have that was comparable to Herod?

¹ Martin, J. A. (1985). [Luke](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 241–242). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- i. A fox is _____.
 - ii. A fox is _____.
 - iii. A fox is a symbol for someone who is _____ and untrustworthy.
 - iv. A fox is _____.
- Who was this Herod? This is Herod Antipas who was a very wicked man.

Look at how Jesus handled a crafty and untrustworthy person. Tips for dealing with people who try to get you off track with God's plan for your life:

- ✓ **Be brave and bold**-Go tell that fox. Jesus did not back down to those who were trying to deter Him from His mission.
- ✓ **Stay focused and fixed on the mission**-Don't let the insecurity and drama of others to derail you from God's calling on your life.
- ✓ **Trust in God's plan**-When cunning, sneaky, and shady people are in your pathway, know that God is still working behind the scenes to bring out His greater good for His greater glory!

2. The _____ -Someone who is caring, protective, and trustworthy (v. 33-34).

- Jesus wanted to gather His people together so that He could protect them, love them, and guide them.

Ruth 2:12; The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Psalm 36:7-8; ⁷ How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God!

Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

⁸ They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,
And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

Psalm 61:4; I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;

I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. *Selah*

- Jesus used a metaphor here: He was on a three-day journey that would end in his death in Jerusalem. This was not a literal 3-day journey but a figure of speech. Jesus was marching according God's drum and operating according to God's divine timeline for His life.
- Notice the description of the people of Jerusalem.

3. The _____ -Those who need care, protection, salvation, and security (v. 34).

- Why does Jesus refer to the people as chicks?
- Here are a few fun observations about chicks:

1) Chicks don't fly for long periods of time.
2) Mother hens talk to their chicks while they're still in the eggs, and the chicks can chirp back while in the shell.
3) Chickens lose feathers when stressed.
4) Chickens are easy prey for predators.
5) Chickens scatter easily when they are scared.

4. **The _____ -What happens when the chicks cuddle with the _____ instead of the mother _____ (v. 35)?**

- The house refers to the house of Israel and to the Temple (the House of God)
- Desolate-Both the Jerusalem and the temple were going to be destroyed in about 40 years.

Scripture Insight: "Israel's house has been left desolate. The nation has no king or priest, no temple or sacrifice (Hosea 3:4-5). But the nation has God's promise that she has not been forsaken (Rom. 11:1ff). There can be no peace on earth until the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) is seated on David's throne (Isa. 11:1ff).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! (Ps. 122:6)

Strive to enter in at the narrow gate!"²

Christ Connection: Jesus is our Savior and our shelter during the storms of life.

Today's Big Idea (A short summary): Find love, protection, and shelter under the mighty wings of God!

Action Steps:

1. **Choose your friends wisely.** Watch out for foxes in your life who are untrustworthy.
2. **When you sense drama or danger** in your life, don't run away from God, run under the shadow of His wings.

Preview for Next Sunday: Dinner Lessons with Jesus, Part 1. Luke 14:1-14.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 228). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.