

OPPOSITION

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August 21, 2022

Luke 13, 31-35

1. Our chronological study of the life of Christ has had us in the Gospel of Luke for quite awhile.
2. We will continue in Luke right through Luke 17:10
3. Jesus repeated what He said in verse 34 later in His ministry as recorded in Matthew 23:37.
NOTE: It is ridiculous to think that Jesus never repeated Himself over the course of His three year, earthly ministry.
4. Rather than seeing this as a problem we can just assume that Jesus said the same thing more than once.
5. Jesus, and the other New Testament writers, made it clear that living the Christian life would require perseverance, and that opposition would come from various sources.
6. This passage suggests three of those sources of opposition.

I. Well-meaning opposition.

- A. Some commentators think that the Pharisees mentioned here were agents of Herod, or that they just wanted to intimidate or frighten Jesus to the point that He would flee.
- B. Others believe that they were members of a well-meaning minority who were not hostile to Jesus.
- C. Both Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea would be examples of such men.
- D. They may have come to Jesus out of genuine concern and a desire to warn Him that He was in danger.
- E. We need to understand that following Jesus involves risk and personal sacrifice, and that sometimes people who care about us will try to counsel caution and even another course of action.
- F. Such was the case recorded in Matthew 16:21-23.

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

- G. One of the characteristics of a true disciple of Jesus Christ will be that they love Jesus supremely and follow Him no matter what. Luke 14:25-27

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

II. Official opposition.

- A. In many parts of the world official opposition to Christians and Christianity is a constant reality.
- B. It is a growing threat in our own country.
 - 1. Christian young people are finding it increasingly difficult to live out their faith due to trends in our public schools.
 - 2. Christians who try and integrate their faith into the workplace are finding it increasingly difficult to do so.
 - 3. Local, state, and national political leaders are increasingly opposed to those who voice their Christian convictions in the public square.
 - 4. Those same political leaders are passing laws, and encouraging policies, that openly promote and protect various forms of immorality and anti-God behavior.
- C. Conservative, evangelical Christians are now seen as an obstacle to be dealt with if America is to become a value-neutral, inclusive society where truth and morality are relative, and there are no absolutes.
- D. We need to follow our Lord's example, and let it be known that we answer to Almighty God first and foremost, and that His agenda is our agenda.

III. Internal opposition.

- A. Jesus spoke of God's ongoing love for Jerusalem and the Jewish people.
- B. He said, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under wings, and you would not have it."
- C. I wonder how different our lives might be if we were more cooperative with God, and less stubborn and disobedient in our ways?
- D. Maybe if we listened, we might hear God saying things like:
 - 1. "I sought a deep personal relationship with you, but you would not respond."
 - 2. "I wanted to bless you in so many ways, but you would not ask."
 - 3. "I wanted to teach you great and wonderful things, but you would not study My Word or expose yourself to sound teaching with regularity."
 - 4. "I wanted to use you in so many lives and situations, but you were not prepared or unwilling."
 - 5. "I wanted to sustain, strengthen and comfort you numerous times, but you would not avail yourself of My grace."
 - 6. "I wanted to fill you with My presence and power, but you would not die to self and to this world."
- E. We need to understand that sometimes we are the enemy of our own souls.

APPLICATION

- 1. Do not let others turn you aside from doing what you know is right in God's sight.
- 2. Do not miss out on God's best for your life by resisting Him in any way.
- 3. "Yes Lord! Your will be done!" should be the ruling principle in our lives.