

Jerusalem – Jerusalem

Text: [Luke 13:31-35](#)

Pharisee's warning to Jesus ... get out of town

This wasn't out of concern for Jesus' - they wanted to keep Him from going to Jerusalem, and Jesus response wasn't aimed at Herod ... but the Pharisees

In these next few lines Jesus' words are sarcastic, loving and prophetic all at the same time.

Jesus' retort -Today and tomorrow I will continue to heal and restore ... but on the third day Jesus' Lament "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem how often **I have wanted to** gather your children together like a hen who protects her chicks under her wings, but you wouldn't let me."

The word lament is a noun, meaning –a passionate expression of grief

Jesus knew his purpose He nothing would stop him from what he had been sent to do, and yet his life was more than just a mission ... not *let's get this over with and get out of here and back to heaven.* **Jesus cared** ... and he still does.

Civil War inclusion ... I've been reading [The Killing of Lincoln](#), by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard Great reading for any Civil War or American History enthusiast Lincoln top advisors warned him of lurking assassination - that he was making himself an easy target by continuing to visiting the battle field. See excerpt page 12

Lincoln's Singular focus– should help us understand the singular focus of Jesus Abraham Lincoln bore the weight of a nation at war –his weathered face revealed strain of leadership

But on Jesus' shoulders rests the fate of the World and all mankind!
Jesus' 4 years of ministry, were thronged by crowds that numbered in the tens of thousands.

As word of him traveled even getting away to have prayer was difficult. No one ever faced a more exhausting pace than Jesus

What made Him so irresistible?

Let's see was it the:

- healing of their souls
- finding new purpose in life
- answers to questions that no one else could answer
- the cure for gnawing loneliness
- healing from physical diseases
- emotional and spiritual healing
- deliverance from demonic possession

Jesus introduced the Almighty God as Heavenly Father, and taught them to praying tenaciously
[Luke 11:9, 10](#)

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds, and to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” NLT

Pray with purpose of heart- and **don't stop praying and asking** until you receive it
Some that came had great faith - some with little or no faith.

Let's consider a few examples:

The Woman with the issue of blood.

She is un-named except in legend, she suffered for 12 years with this condition of hemorrhage blood.

Mark describes her bleeding as constant and that she suffered terribly at the hands of the doctors who took her money, but left her in no better – Luke and Matthew tell us that she grew only worse
Who knows what they did to her?

She was sick and destitute and lonely – she was ceremonially unclean and isolated from others
But then a moment of hope – The Rabbi, Jesus - if she could somehow get close enough to him to she could be made well.

What incredible courage ... she had to be extremely weak and despondent, probably, emaciated looking from 12 years of hemorrhaging blood she may have still been young but looked haggard.

But hope stirred in her heart – *“if I can just touch the hem of his garment ...”*

Read Luke 8:43, 44

“As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.” NLT

Keep on seeking – keep on asking – keep on knocking

She was probably too weak, or frightened to stand up she is bent low on the ground, stretching out so His garment might brushes her hand as he passes by.

The same determination could be seen in the man with leprosy (Luke 5:12, 13)

Luke tells us he was covered with it – but he made his way against all odds to Jesus

Or Zacchaeus, a **chief** tax collector - too diminutive to push his way through the crowd, he climbed a sycamore tree because he had to see Jesus. **Do you see a pattern here?**

Jesus called Zacchaeus by his name, (pure one) and invited himself to Zacchaeus house for dinner. (Luke 19: 1-4)

He wouldn't give up ... *keep on asking – seeking – knocking*

The men who literally ripped apart the thatched roof and lowered their friend by ropes on stretcher dropping him in Jesus' lap

Tenacious

I know that some of you have felt like giving up – you’re discouraged – despondent, feeling hopeless some are even upset at this message because you’re thinking – I’m not aggressive like that

This word is for you today!

Not everyone who was healed had faith; some demonstrated none and still received

- the one who said to Jesus Lord help my unbelief
- the cripple at the pool of Salome, who after being healed turned Jesus in to authorities

→ Your prayers and faith whether great or small can turn the tide for family, friends ... for people you know well and those you barely know.

Author Eugene Peterson wrote

“The language of prayer is forged in the crucible of trouble. When we can’t help ourselves and call for help, when we don’t like where we are and want out, when we don’t like who we are and want a change, we use primal language, and this language becomes the root language of prayer.”

For the Christian, this life is a training ground, field work all for the purpose of building faith

Hebrews 11:6 states *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”* NLT

New KJ version uses *diligently* in place of sincerely

Faith building is relationship building – that’s why faith is the key ingredient when it comes to you and God

The Message puts it this way – *“It’s impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.”*

Don’t give up ... keep on asking, seeking and knocking

Did you catch the key phrase? **Everyone** – not some of you – everyone who seeks God in this way will receive what they ask for.

Jesus lamented over Jerusalem - How often I wanted to gather your children under my protection like a mother hen her chicks – but you wouldn’t let me.

It isn’t because God is stingy – it isn’t because He doesn’t want to.

“Hope is the word that God has written on the brow of every person.”

Victor Hugo writer of Les Miserable’s

There’s a fresh wind blowing in this place and God is calling you to become a vital part of it. It starts with your response to the still small voice of the Spirit - rekindle that spark of hope and faith.

“... anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists *and* that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.”

Jesus lamented over Jerusalem because they missed their opportunity – let's not miss ours!

Get involved in the promise to pray that so many have made in this church. If you have been falling off because you've become discouraged get started again

Come humbly but pray tenaciously- keep asking, seeking and knocking and don't quit.

We need to encourage each other in this matter – but that is what a church is supposed to do!
It not too late for you, your family your church your community your nation.

Let's Pray