

## A Face of Flint in the Face of Fright

Luke 13:31-35

Jesus headed to Jerusalem to die for us with “His face set like flint” (Isaiah 50:7). He was determined to fulfill His purpose. Nothing was going to distract Him from going to the cross. One the way, people tell Jesus that Herod is seeking to kill Him (v. 31). This is the same Herod who beheaded John the Baptist.

### I. There is to be no fear in me, like there is no fear in Jesus.

“Go tell that fox, ‘Behold, I (work)... today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.” (v. 32).

This is not so much a prophetic statement (the cross and resurrection) as it is a statement of fact.

“For God has not given to us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).

#### A. The purpose of God will be fulfilled in my life.

Today, and tomorrow, and the third day” are not prophetic terms, but are used simply as a declaration of the fact that our Savior was assured that the time of his life on earth, the time of his service to the glory of God and men, and the time of his death were appointed by his Father and ours, and could not be shortened by Herod, or anyone, or anything.

#### B. The goal of God will be accomplished in my life.

Jesus said, “I will reach my goal.” So will you. “He who began a good work in me will carry it on to the day of Christ” (Philippians 1:6). Maybe that goal is to learn more about grace; or increase in faith; or deepen my love for others and for God. It will be accomplished. I will be *perfected*.

*“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Hebrews 2:10).*

### II. There is to be perfect love in me, like there is perfect love in Jesus

When you use phrase, “Don’t sweat it!” you mean, “Don’t worry” or “Don’t be anxious or afraid.”

Adam sweated naturally before the Fall, but after “By the sweat of the brow, you will eat” (Gen. 3:19).

A. **Thermal sweat is natural and good** – it is a vital function of the normal, healthy body. *Ectodermal displasiacs* are those who have impaired or inactive sweat glands, and can quickly overheat. We are beautifully equipped physiologically to prevent any rise in body temperature.

B. **Fear is exhibited in unnatural sweat** – Emotional sweating occurs chiefly under the arms, and the fluid secreted is very different from the pure fluid of thermal sweat. The interesting thing is that before the age of puberty -- one might almost say before the age of accountability -- *children either do not produce this sweat at all or only in greatly reduced quantities*. Animals can detect when a human is afraid of them through odor. Older people, like children, have less of this sweat. “Ambition is largely past in such people, and a certain unsophisticated trustfulness and simplicity may replace the hostilities of former years. The tensions of middle age are relaxed, and so emotional sweating is reduced, a time referred to as a second childhood.” Arthur Custance.

C. **Mental stress is exhibited by seat on the brow and the palms** – The very reason why hands of the priests were washed in ancient Israel and “They are to wear linen turbans on their heads, so as not to wear anything that makes them perspire” (Ezekiel 44:18). “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything through prayer and thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6).

### III. There is to be a Kingdom mentality in me, like there is a Kingdom mentality in Jesus.

In vs. 34-35 Jesus speaks of His compassion for the Jews and the consequences of their rejection.

A. Kingdom people reach out to those who reject the Messiah, like Jesus reached out (v. 34).

B. Kingdom people speak “the truth in love,” warning of the desolation that is to come (v. 34).

C. Kingdom people hope in the grace of God to conquer the hardness of hearts (v. 35).