

Luke 13:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

Analysis

Jesus responds defiantly: 'And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' Calling Herod a 'fox' is contemptuous—foxes symbolize cunning, destruction, and insignificance (Nehemiah 4:3, Song of Solomon 2:15, Ezekiel 13:4). Jesus refuses to be intimidated. His statement 'I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow' affirms His continuing ministry despite threats. The phrase 'the third day I shall be perfected' anticipates His death and resurrection—His mission will be completed on God's schedule, not Herod's. The verb 'be perfected' means to reach the goal, accomplish the purpose.

Historical Context

This bold response demonstrates Jesus' fearless confrontation of political power. Unlike many religious leaders who compromised with authorities, Jesus spoke truth regardless of consequences. His reference to 'the third day' connects to resurrection imagery throughout Scripture (Hosea 6:2) and specifically anticipates His resurrection after three days in the tomb. That He frames death as being 'perfected' rather than defeated reveals His understanding that the cross was not failure but the culmination of His mission—through death He would destroy death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' refusal to be intimidated by political power teach about Christian witness in hostile environments?
2. How does framing death as being 'perfected' transform Christian understanding of suffering and martyrdom?
3. In what ways should believers balance prudence (avoiding unnecessary danger) with boldness (refusing to compromise truth despite threats)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπατε	αὐτοῖς	Πορευθέντες	εἶπατε	τῇ	ἀλώπεκι
And	and tell	unto them	Go ye	and tell	G3588	fox
G2532	G2036	G846	G4198	G2036		G258
ταύτη	Ἰδοὺ,	ἐκβάλλω	δαιμόνια	καὶ	ἰάσεις	ἐπιτελῶ
G3778	Behold	I cast out	devils	And	cures	I do
	G2400	G1544	G1140	G2532	G2392	G2005
σήμερον	καὶ	αὔριον	καὶ	τῇ	τρίτῃ	τελειοῦμαι
to day	And	to morrow	And	G3588	the third	day I shall be perfected
G4594	G2532	G839	G2532		G5154	G5048

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:10 (Parallel theme): 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 5:9 (Parallel theme): And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

