

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 εἴπατε αὐτοῖς Πορευθέντες εἴπατε τῇ ἀλώπεκι
And and tell unto them Go ye and tell G3588 fox
G2532 G2036 G846 G4198 G2036 G258

ταύτῃ Ἰδού, ἐκβάλλω δαιμόνια καὶ iάσεις 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 tomorrow 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;

