

Title: THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION, LUKE 13:31-35.  
(Chatham, NJ; 02/28/10, AM) [D – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: While Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, we learn of his desire for redemption not only for Jerusalem but for all.

Purpose: To inspire us with the notion that redemption can happen and to explain several parts of the story as it unfolds before us.

Introduction:

1. Redemption stories make us feel good, inspire us, and generate hope.
2. One such story is in the book of Ruth: in Ruth 2:14-23 after years of hardship Naomi catches a glimpse of the possibility of redemption.
3. We see a few of such stories at the Olympics in Vancouver these past several weeks. (Bode Miller flubbed the previous Olympics but has won bronze, silver, and gold. He has redeemed his reputation and the best American skier ever. In Apollo Ohno's first Olympics he finished dead last.)
4. The Gospel is the ultimate redemption story, the gold standard, the story to which others can only be a mere shadow or inkling.
5. The others remind us that redemption is real and that it feels good.
6. In Luke 13:31-35 we catch a glimpse of what the Gospel is about while we see Jesus on the Road to Redemption.

## I. Jesus' Journey Will Take Him to Jerusalem.

### A. Luke portrays the journey.

1. Jesus has already "set his face to go to Jerusalem," Luke 9:51.
2. In 13:22 he is making his way there.
3. Later, Luke describes Christianity as "the Way," Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23, etc.
4. Jerusalem is the capital, which contains the Temple, and the very image of all that Israel stands for.
5. Isaiah 2:2-3 (repeated in Micah 4:1-2) predicts that the law will go forth from Jerusalem.
6. It is the early hub of God's activities.

### B. Redemption will take Jesus to Jerusalem and more importantly to the cross.

1. Jesus taught the disciples from Scripture that he must suffer, Luke 24:46.
2. Though he had told them numerous times beforehand, only afterwards did the message sink in.
3. Thus our spiritual pilgrimage will also take us to the cross.
4. Redemption comes as a death to the old way of life and birth to a new way.
5. The way to destruction and death can be easy; finding our way back to God will be fraught with suffering and struggle.
6. But the cross that Jesus endured in the holy city is the only way.

## II. Jesus Encounters Friend and Foe Alike.

### A. Herod and the Pharisees.

1. Herod is an enemy; he wants to do what his father failed to do when he slaughtered the innocents in Bethlehem.
2. Perhaps he even thinks that this is John back from the dead.

3. Government rulers are notoriously suspicious of rivals.
4. The founding fathers of the U. S. recognized this, and it is why they developed a system of limited government and limited powers of each branch.
5. Jesus is warned to leave Herod's jurisdiction by the Pharisees.
6. We find it strange that the people we normally think of as enemies of Christ demonstrate a willingness to help him.
7. Luke notes that Pharisees often invited Jesus to dine (7:36; 11:37; 14:1).
8. Thus there may have been some initial willingness to hear him.

B. Redemption is for all – even God's enemies.

1. We must be aware of the trap of self-righteousness.
2. We could easily find ourselves in the camp of Pharisees when we assume that we are better Christians than others because of what we do.
3. Remember the story of the Pharisee and the Publican. One lists all that he does for God and looks down on others; the other pleads for mercy. Which one was justified before God?
4. Sin makes all of us God's enemies (Col. 1:21-22).
5. Redemption turns enemies into friends.

III. Jesus Longs for His People to Return to Him (34-35).

A. God our protection and refuge.

1. The metaphor he chooses is that of a hen protecting her chicks.
2. Images in the OT are: shelter and shadow, refuge and fortress, covering with wings, a shield and tent (Psalm 91).
3. What the Psalmist exhorts Israel to do, Jesus offers though they refuse.

B. We return through repentance.

1. Repentance and forgiveness is the message of the Gospel, Luke 24:47.
2. All men everywhere are called upon to repent, Acts 17:30.
3. Forgiveness of sins constitutes the essence of the redemptive plan, Eph. 1:7.

Conclusion:

1. Ruth is a story with a happy ending.
2. Redemption stirred the hearts of Cleopas and his friend, Luke 24:32.
3. Your response begins when you find the same stirring in your soul, and you believe.
4. Your journey begins when you repent.
5. Never lose the wonder and fascination with redemption.
6. It is always fresh and filled with hope.