

## March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday in Lent

### *Don't do nothing – Do something* by Pastor Julio Romero

#### **Gospel: Luke 13:31-35**

What we have this morning is a very short Gospel, only five verses, but its message is profound and far-reaching. This passage opens the door to a discussion of the ongoing struggle between "Good and Evil, Sin and Grace."

Jesus is in Jerusalem, healing the sick, casting out demons, and most likely proclaiming the Good News as well. His presence and work in the city disturbed King Herod. So much so, that Herod wanted to kill Jesus.

How could a king—who should always prioritize the well-being of his people—feel threatened by someone who brings healing and hope to the people? It is clear that King Herod put his personal interests above those of his people. He saw Jesus as a challenge to his authority and control. Jesus was doing what Herod, as king, should have been doing: caring for his people. By healing the sick and offering words of hope, Jesus was winning the hearts and love of the people—something that made Herod fearful.

The easiest way for Herod to deal with this perceived threat was to get rid of Jesus. He was willing to commit the most evil act imaginable to stay in control, to maintain his position, and preserve the special privileges that came with it.

The Lord Jesus said that the love of money is the root of all evil, and with money comes power, authority, and control—things that can easily darken our hearts and minds. St. Teresa of Avila once said, "Money can be a good servant, but a bad master." I would add that power—whether economic, political, or physical—can also be a good servant or a bad master. How we use it depends on our relationship with power. We can use it for good, or we can listen to its whisper urging us to "impose our will on others." Isn't this what we see happening today? Is this why we sense that something is terribly wrong?

The late evangelist Dr. B.R. Lakin once said, "There are three ways to prevent opposition: know nothing, have nothing, and do nothing."

But Jesus' response to Herod's opposition was not to do nothing but to do something. He did not walk away from the situation. Instead, He stayed with the people. Jesus longed to gather them under His wings like a hen gathers her chicks. Despite the

threat from Herod, Jesus continued His work of love—healing the sick, casting out demons, and proclaiming the Good News.

Yes, Jesus used hard language when He referred to Herod as a “fox”—not because Herod was clever or sharp, but because of his scheming, cunning, and dubious nature. Herod had sold his loyalty to the Romans, had questionable marriages, and had beheaded John the Baptist to reward his daughter Salome for dancing before his guests. Now, Herod was threatening Jesus’ life. There were many reasons why Jesus called him a “fox,” an animal considered forbidden according to Hebrew law. Not even the Pharisees liked Herod. While the Pharisees opposed Jesus’ teachings and miracles, they too disliked Herod.

I can almost hear Jesus saying to Herod and all who opposed His ministry of love, healing, and grace: “I have created you in My own image. I have formed you to be loving and caring. I have given you the tools to recognize, embrace, and support what is good. Why then do you oppose it?”

What was wrong with Herod was that he had forgotten where all good things come from. He had forgotten that God calls us to remember and give thanks for His blessings, to share them with others, and to care for our brothers and sisters. Herod had forgotten that God calls us to acknowledge His providential hand in times of joy and security, and that He invites us to bring hope to those who despair.

Herod and the people of Jerusalem missed all of this. They didn’t hear God’s call to witness His works, to rejoice in His miracles, blessings, and wonders. Instead, they wanted to silence the voice proclaiming the Good News—the voice that liberates and restores.

Despite the threat and opposition from Herod, Jesus finished His work of grace in Jerusalem, just as He said He would, on the third day. But that was not the last time that evil and love met. On Good Friday, they met again. When everyone thought that sin and evil had won, three days later, Jesus completed His work. Love and grace had the final word. Love and grace won. Jesus defeated sin and evil.

I see this Gospel as a lesson for us today. We can learn that God's Spirit is always at work, just as it was when Jesus was in Jerusalem, facing Herod's opposition. He didn’t leave the city until his work was done. Sometimes, it may feel like the darkness in the world is so overwhelming that we think Jesus has stopped working—that He has brushed the dust off His sandals and left, that His Spirit is no longer with us. But God’s Spirit is always here, working. One day, when Jesus returns, His work will be forever finished. **Amen.**