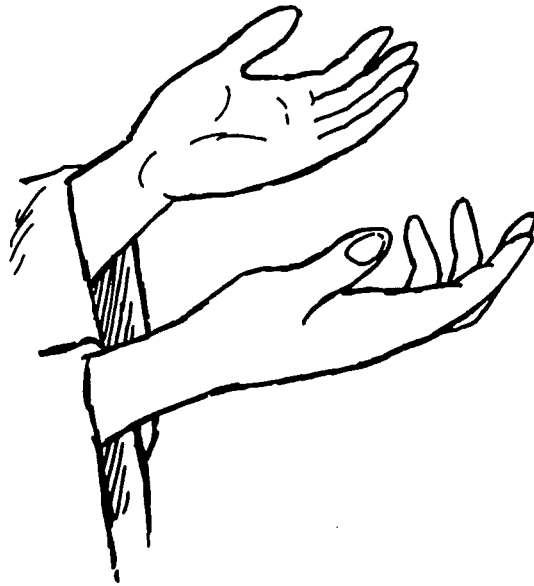


SPECIAL DELIVERY

(The Raising of the Widow's Son at Nain)

Luke 7:11-18



Special Delivery

- The “Walking” of the Lord (v.11)
- The “Widow” of the Crowd (v.12)
- The “Weeping” of the Hour (v.13)
- The “Wonder” of the Son (v.14-18)

*“And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak;
and he delivered him to his mother.” (v.15)*

Bill Kirk

“SPECIAL DELIVERY”

Text: Luke 7:11-18
Subject: The Raising Of The Widow’s Son At Nain.

“And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak; and He delivered him to his master” (v. 15)

Introduction

1. Luke, chapter 7 reveals again the compassion of Jesus.
2. Compassion has been defined as “Your pain in my heart”.
3. Luke, chapter 7 reveals the pain in Jesus’ heart as He ministered from place to place.
4. In Luke, chapter 7, Jesus is confronted with 4 opportunities of ministry:
 - #1. The centurion’s servant about to die. (vs. 1-10)
 - #2. The grieving widow whose son had died. (vs. 11-18)
 - #3. The bewildered prophet, John the Baptist. (vs. 19-35)
 - #4. The repentant woman who broke the box. (vs. 36-50)

Questions With Answers (In This “Special Delivery” Story)

1. Why was Jesus walking from Capernaum to Nain?
2. Why were many people following Jesus?
3. Why was Jesus moved by the mother’s tears?
4. Why did Jesus touch the bier (or stretcher)?
5. Why did the multitude respond the way they did when Jesus healed the boy?

4 Noticeables Jump Off The Page (They minister to every heart here today)

I. The “Walking” Of The Lord (V. 11)

“And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people” (v. 11)

Fact: “The day after” was the day after Jesus healed the desperate servant in Capernaum.

Fact: Jesus healed the servant in response to his great faith. (v. 9)

Fact: Jesus then started walking from Capernaum to Nain.

Fact: Nain was 25 miles from Capernaum (and Jesus goes there even though He isn’t requested to come).

A Cemetery Confrontation Luke emphasizes “Much People” twice:

- #1. The first group of people were Jesus’ disciples and the multitude was amazed at the healing in Capernaum. (v. 11)
- #2. The second group of people were the mourners in Nain marching toward the gravesite. (v. 12)

Question: Was it accidental or incidental that these two companies of people met?

Answer: Not hardly; and oh what a lesson:

- #1. Had Jesus been just a little late, He would have missed the funeral procession.
- #2. Had Jesus been early, he would have missed the procession as well.

(And I Discover Once Again)

- #1. That Jesus has a perfect timetable for you.
- #2. That if Jesus doesn't prevent our sorrow, He will come with grace to sustain us in sorrow.
- #3. That Jesus is seldom early, but He is never late.
- #4. That Jesus "Makes all things beautiful in His time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

(What An Encouragement To All)

- #1. There will be times when you are in Nain, and wonder where Jesus is.
- #2. There will be times when you feel Jesus is 25 miles away and unaware of your steps.
- #3. There will be times in the journey when the unexpected disappointments sorrow your heart.
- #4. There will be times when your plans don't seem to be God's plan.

(But Rest Assured)

- ◆ Jesus knows when to show up, ("His way is perfect" Psalm 18:30)
- ◆ Jesus knows where you are, ("My times are in His hands" Psalm 31:15)

II. The "Widow" Of The Crowd (V. 12)

"...the only son of his mother, and she was a widow" (v. 12)

Question: Why is it mentioned that the mom is a widow?

Answer: Because the death of her son meant that the last remaining prop had been swept away.

- ◆ Her only son was her companion, comfort and support
- ◆ Now she is at the end of herself and no one can help her but God!!!

Question: What does Jesus do when we come to the end of ourselves?

Question: What does Jesus do when our support system breaks down?

Question: What does Jesus do when you feel as though you can go no further?

"The Lord Saw Her" (Verse 13)

- ◆ But pastor, she was in a crowd of "Much people".
- ◆ She was surrounded by a multitude of mourners.

Fact: It makes no difference to Jesus tonight, if you are alone or surrounded by 1,000 people.

Question: Who did Jesus focus His attention on first?

Answer: (V. 13), the surviving relative – Mom!

Question: Why did Jesus focus on the mom first, when the greater need is the deceased son?

Answer: To reveal His compassion one more time:

- #1. That when we come to the end of ourselves, help is near!
- #2. That when our support system breaks down, help is near!
- #3. That when we feel vulnerable and isolated, help is near!
- #4. That when we are saddened because someone is taken away, help is near

III. The "Weeping" Of The Moment (V. 13)

“When the Lord saw her, He said, weep not” (v. 13)

Fact: Jesus saw her.

Fact: Jesus sympathized with her.

Fact: Jesus spoke to her “Weep not”.

- ◆ Who wouldn’t weep when all hope is gone?
- ◆ Who wouldn’t weep when death comes knocking?
- ◆ Who wouldn’t weep when only a miracle will do?

Question: Why did Jesus say “Weep not”?

Question: Why did He tell mom to “Stop crying”?

Question: Aren’t moms supposed to cry at family funerals?

Answer: Jesus said “Weep not” because “He was about to remove the cause of her tears”.

- #1. He was about to do something unexpected.
- #2. He was about to do what the doctor couldn’t do.
- #3. He was about to suspend the laws of nature.
- #4. He was about to come through one more time.

(And He Wanted Mom To See It)
“Weep Not” Means:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ◆ Pause for a moment, | ◆ Calm down, | ◆ Hold steady, |
| ◆ Gather yourself together, | ◆ Get hold of your emotions | ◆ Stand still. |

Question: Why “Weep not” and look at Jesus?

Answer: So you can see Him address what is causing your despair! (Repeat)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Instead of weeping over the effects, allow Jesus to deal with the cause of your tears.

(Stop Long Enough...)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ...to see Jesus in the picture! | ...to see Jesus bigger than your cause of pain! |
| ...to see Jesus in charge! | ...to see Jesus over what touches you! |
| ...to see Jesus in focus before you! | ...to see Jesus able to deal with the cause! |
| ...to see Jesus over all and in charge! | |

IV. The “Wonder” Of The Son (Vs. 14-18)

“And Jesus came and touched the bier, and they that bare him (the dead corpse) stood still”
(v. 14)

Question: Why did the procession stop when Jesus touched the stretcher?

Answer: (I Love This!)

- #1. Because anyone who touched the dead was considered ceremonially unclean according to Levitical Law!
- #2. The Jewish rulers never would have allowed this defilement!

(But Jesus Could Not Be Kept At Arms Length)

Fact: He reveals His willingness to come into every life that is open to Him. (Pg. 3 of 4)

Fact: He reveals that no one is too defiled and soiled that He cannot change.

Fact: He reveals that no one is too far out of reach of His grace.

Fact: He reveals that no one in this meeting is out of sight or out of mind or out of opportunity for His ministry.

Fact: He touched the boy, He touched me and He will touch you!!!

(Three Voices Are Heard)

#1. The Lord Spoke

“Young man arise” (v. 14)

- ◆ Almost effortless, because it is not our working it up somehow,
- ◆ It is Jesus just touching us as He did then.

#2. The Boy Spoke

“And he that was dead sat up and began to speak” (v. 15)

- ◆ Think of what the boy might have said!
- ◆ Think of what you would have said!

#3. The People Spoke

“And there came a fear on all; and they glorified God, saying, that a great prophet is risen up among us; and that God hath visited His people. (v. 16)

- ◆ Fear, glory and the supernatural acknowledged.

Question: Why were the people filled with awe?

Answer: Because nobody knew that Jesus would arrive.

Because nobody knew he would break up the funeral.

Because nobody expected that at the last minute the impossible would take place!

Conclusion

#1. Has unexpected sorrow touched your life?

#2. Have you thought that Jesus was far away?

#3. Have you come to the end of yourself?

#4. Will you “Weep not” long enough to see Jesus tonight?

#5. If Jesus raises the dead (the greater miracle) can Jesus heal the living (the lesser miracle)?

Life Application:

- ◆ The Lord in His providence has perfect timing as He orders your steps in ways unknown to you.
- ◆ The Lord has sufficient grace in every season when we come to the end of our own strength.
- ◆ The Lord desires that we hold steady and stand still long enough to focus intently upon Him.
- ◆ The Lord is not one bit nervous over how defiled by sin you may be. (He has come to lay His hands upon you).
- ◆ The Lord has unlimited power to minister in miraculous ways (and He wants us to believe).

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor