

WIDOW AT NAIN

LUKE 7:11-17

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.

12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, **“Don’t cry.”**

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, **“Young man, I say to you, get up!”** 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

THEN

What does Jesus see come through the Town Gate at Nain?

- Dead Son of a Widow

What does this about her circumstances?

- Dead Husband = no income or security
- Dead Son (Only Son) = no future income or security
- Circumstances = Hopeless

How many people are with her?

- Large Crowd

How many people are with Jesus?

- His Disciples
- A Large Crowd

How do you think two large crowds affected proceedings?

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- People like order – specially at funerals/ceremonies – possibly heaped on more distress

What happens to Jesus when he sees her?

- His heart goes out to her
- σπλαγχνίζομαι – splanchnizomai – pity, deep empathy, to have compassion

Why does Jesus feel ‘Splanchnizomai’ for this women?

- Open Discussion (Text does not say)
- Perhaps he was moved by her absolute hopelessness
- ‘splanchnizomai’ means empathy – Jesus possibly connects her loss with God’s loss of his people to our Sin

Jesus’ response to the circumstance is to tell the women ‘Don’t Cry.’

Why would Jesus say this to the women?

- Open Discussion (Text does not say)
- Perhaps her crying and large crowd were distracting his crowd from the teaching? (Joke)
- Perhaps he knew his response would be to bring the boy back to life?

Jesus walks towards the Beir (Coffin) and stops it from moving

How do you think the men carrying the Beir felt at this moment?

- Offended, disgusted by Jesus getting in the way of an important ceremony
- Moved and faithful, that Jesus (considered a prophet) would come to aid them
- Uncertain, confused as to why he would approach them

Jesus then says “Young man, I say to you, get up!” and the boy rises and begins to speak

What does the speaking tell us about the boy’s condition?

- Healthy, when kids are quiet that means there is a problem

Does Jesus touch the body during this process?

- No

Has any Jew in history seen someone raised from the dead without touching them?

- No prophet in history can raise someone from the dead by speech alone
- Elijah: stretches out over a boy three times, and prays to God
- Elisha: had to stretch himself out over the boy, and slowly the boy’s body grew warm

What does this indicate about Jesus?

- He is the Messiah, Son of God, God himself
- Far greater than any man simply connected to God

How do the people respond to the event?

- They believe Jesus to be a prophet, but that God is also with them

How does the writer (Luke) tell us what his thoughts on Jesus are in this passage?

- Open Discussion
- Calls Jesus by name at the beginning of the text
- Calls Jesus Lord when acting on his ‘splanchnizomai’ (compassion)

Why does the writer do this?

- Open Discussion (Text does not say)
- Perhaps Luke Believes these moments define God’s character, compassionate, merciful, loving, hopeful

NOW

What are some times in our lives we can feel like the Widow in this passage?

- Open Discussion
- Hopeless (Jobs, Families, Salvation, Money, etc. – any real issue)

NOTE: Issues with the Widow is three-fold, Husband lost, Son lost & Financial woes

What does this passage teach us about Jesus’ response to these circumstances?

- Compassion and mercy are not always about works of the ministry
- God loves us, and in our most broken state works harder to connect to our lives
- God’s love is not an exchange, based on anything we have done

How does this change our view of Jesus and God?

- Understand motives for trusting in God’s will, regarding the cross (people are spiritually hopeless)
- Jesus is more motivated by love than by actions/works
- Does not want bad things for our lives, and responds to those who need a response

What does Jesus become when we forget about his 'splanchnizomai'?

- Ministry machine: loveless salvation robot who is only here to do a Job
- Only sees the needs with regards to how your relationship with God is currently going
- Tit for tat: Jesus responds only to those who first do the work (Reward Scheme)

APPLICATION

What are some times we have missed Jesus' 'splanchnizomai' (compassion)?

- Open Discussion

When we remember how loving our God and Jesus is - How does this change the way we act?

- When people around us are hurting and hopeless like the women?**
 - we place their needs above our own: RESPOND to the Hopelessness with action
 - we get involved in their lives: SACRIFICE and go out of our way
 - remind them of Jesus' love: be a MIRROR of that love for them
- When we are the person hurting and hopeless like this women?**
 - Remember that Jesus and God have a plan full of Hope: God is in CONTROL
 - Surrender our lives: Knowing that he loves us more than we can comprehend (Jesus Death)
 - Seek out help: from OTHERS and GOD
 - Know it is ok to mourn, but also to know spiritual there is no need to mourn with Jesus

What are some things we can do to be more compassionate like Jesus in this passage?

- Open Discussion

Challenge: Make a plan for each person to look for a need they can help support with love by action or prayer