

From Death to Life – Luke 7

As we begin this morning, I want to give a couple of shout outs – at-a-boys!

(Guy Story) – Trica was asking questions in 3rd-5th Grade Class about John the Baptist.

- She asked what she thought would be a tough question, but Easton Guy answered it
- She said, "That's a great answer. How did you know that?"
- Easton Replied, "Because my dad read me that story this week!"

Children often view the first person who gives them information as the main expert.

- It's like a baseline reality – every other piece of information the child receives will be evaluated on that baseline
- That is we have worked hard at aligning our reading and teaching plans.
- Passion for Families is to equip you, as parents and grandparents, to be the spiritual child/grandchild's spiritual hero
- You are the primary Spiritual Influencer. You can do it; we can help!

(Ray Story) – We hosted a couple of our Milestones last week, and this week

- Kindergarten & 6th Grade Milestones – We are doing one right now – New Believer's Class
- Kindergarten – Encourage Parents to Present Bibles – Not to say the church will never kids Bibles – That's good – What is better is parents creating a special event...presenting their child a first good Bible.
- Shout out the P.J. & Amber Ray – they sent some pictures of the Bibles...

Our Next Gen Ministries (Kid Min & Stu Min) work hard to equip you to invest spiritually in your child. – Recently We finalized our Kid Min Team

- Bridget Caton is Kid Min Coordinator
- Mary Mac is Wed Night Teaching Assistant
- Shelbie Hatch is serving as our Communication Coordinator
- We are very grateful for that team – If you want to take a test drive in Kid Min, see one of these ladies...

Luke 7 – Death to Life

Set the Stage, This is the early part of Jesus' Galilean ministry...He has already:

- Called His disciples (Luke 6:12–16)
- Taught the crowds, including the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17–49)
- Healed many sick and cast out demons (Luke 6:17–19)
- His popularity is growing... so much so that they are following him every...
- So he is with his disciples and large crowds are following him.

Jesus comes to a town called Nain

- Nain was a small town in Galilee, located near Nazareth.
- In Jesus' day, it was a modest, agrarian community—likely home to only a few hundred people.

- The gate of the city, where this encounter takes place, was the natural gathering point for legal transactions, public conversation (Think City Hall / County Courthouse)
- It was at the gate of the city where funeral procession began.

Jesus is moving through the region,

- He is teaching and demonstrating the arrival of God's kingdom through His words and works.
- As Jesus approaches the town gate, **He encounters a funeral procession coming out. The dead man is the only son of a widow (Luke 7:12).**
 - A little different than what we have today – Line of Cars following a hearse
 - In that day, burial happened on the day of death – no waiting around a few days

Here is a mother – She is perhaps still in shock at the loss of her son...her only son

- She was already a widow. She had already buried her husband, and now she was burying her only child. She was completely alone.
- When Jesus saw her, His heart broke for her. He walked up to her and said, "Don't cry."
- Then He stepped forward and touched the wooden stretcher where the dead man was lying. The pallbearers stopped. Everyone went silent.

Jesus looked at the dead man and said, "Young man, I say to you—get up."

- Right there, in front of everyone, the dead man sat up and began to speak. Jesus took him by the hand and gave him back to his mother.
- The crowd was terrified. They started glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has come among us!" and "God has come to help His people!" Word of what Jesus did spread through the whole region.

At Nain, Jesus teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

- He meets death face-to-face and demonstrates that He is the Lord of Life!
- The miracle is both an act of mercy toward a grieving mother and a sign that the Messiah has come.

The Crisis — The Widow's Hopeless Situation (vv. 11–12)

Luke 7:11-12 - Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. ¹² And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, **the only son of his mother**; and she was a **widow**. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

Here is the Crisis (blank Slide):

- A widow is burying her only son. She has already lost her husband, now she is faced with losing her **only** son. And with it...her future, and her security.
- In first-century Jewish culture, a woman's identity and security were tied to the men in her life—first her father, then her husband, then her sons.

A widow who had lost her only son was in a devastating position:

- **Economically destitute** — Without a husband or son to provide, she had no means of income and no one to inherit the family property.
- **Socially vulnerable** — Widows were among the most marginalized people in ancient society. She had no male protector, no voice in legal matters, and no one to advocate for her.
- **Emotionally crushed** — She had already buried her husband. Now she was burying her only son. Her future was gone. Her legacy was gone. Her hope was gone.
- **The depth:** In that culture, she was now utterly alone—no provider, no protector, no legacy.

Application: *What crisis are you facing? What "funeral processions" are you walking in today?*

- A broken relationship? A lost job? A diagnosis? Grief over a wayward child?
- The widow didn't ask for the funeral—she was simply living it.
- Sometimes life brings us to a place of complete hopelessness, and that is exactly where Jesus meets us.

II. The Compassion — Jesus' Heart for the Hurting (v. 13)

Luke 7:13 - When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

When He saw her, he had compassion.

- Jesus initiates this encounter. He does not wait to be asked.
- Verse 13 shows us what Jesus is like. The woman's grief moved the Lord. Her suffering touched him. He saw her and felt **for** her. He was not so smitten with popularity and adulation that he didn't have time to mourn with a widow. (Anyabwile, *Exalting Jesus in Luke*, p. 140)

When He saw her, he had compassion.

Jesus didn't just have pity, he had great compassion. Empathy

- **The depth:** The Greek word *splok-NI-zo-mi* means a gut-level, visceral compassion.
 - This is not distant pity—it is the Son of God entering into human suffering.
 - **This is true compassion enters another person's sorrow or pain.**
- The Prophet Isaiah said in **Isaiah 53:3** - A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
- **Isaiah 53:4** - Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

I love to ask this question, "What does God the Father want us to know about Himself?"

- Remember what Jesus said, "You've seen me, you've see the Father – John 14
- Jn. 1:18 "...he declared Him"
- Heb. 1:3 – the writer of Hebrews said Jesus is the express image of the Father

Let's think back to a couple of OT Passages

Lamentations 3:22-23 *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

Exodus 33:19 - Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Exodus 34:6 - And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

- Hebrew word translated "merciful" is *ra-**whom*** is translated "compassion" in Ex. 33 – equivalent to Greek word used in Luke 7

One thing is clear: **the God of Israel—the true and living God, Creator, Redeemer, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—is a God of compassion.**

- Unlike the gods of the ancient world, our God is **loving, gracious, forgiving, kind, merciful, and tenderhearted**. He is not distant from human suffering. We see this perfectly in Jesus, who wept at Lazarus's tomb because He was moved by the grief of those around Him.
- **This is a powerful revelation of God's character.**
 - Jesus is not merely a miracle worker; He is God in the flesh, and in Jesus we see that God is compassionate toward the suffering.
 - Many ancient peoples viewed their gods as powerful but unpredictable, distant, or easily manipulated through rituals and sacrifices. Luke shows something radically different: the true God does not need to be persuaded to notice this widow.
 - He sees her need and freely moves toward her in mercy.
- **God is compassionate all the time.** He is the God of all comfort. When we meet Jesus, we see the compassion of God in human flesh.
- **Hebrews 4:15–16** — "We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses... Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Jesus, Truly God, Truly Man knows what we suffer.

- **He sees. He knows. He cares.** He is not distant or detached from our pain.
- In Luke 7, the widow never asks Jesus for help. **He simply sees her.**
- **Luke 7:13** — "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'"
- Jesus sees exactly where you are. He sees your grief, your pain, your disappointment, and your loss.

You do not have to clean yourself up before Jesus notices you.

- He sees your pain before you even speak it. God is not indifferent to your suffering.
- Bring your grief to Him. **He is not put off by it.**

Compassion Moves to Action

Jesus doesn't simply see suffering—**His compassion moves Him to act.**

III. The Command / Call — Jesus' Authority Over Death (vv. 14–15)

Two-Fold Command – To Woman “Do No Weep” / To Man: “Arise

Luke 7:14-15 - When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Do Not Weep – This would sound harsh unless you can do something about the situation

Young Man, I say to you, Arise

- **What happened:** Jesus touches the stretcher (making Himself ceremonially unclean in Jewish law) and speaks: “Young man, I say to you, arise.” The dead man sits up and begins to speak.

This Demonstrates that Jesus has power to make the unclean, clean.

This Demonstrates Jesus has power of Death

- Jesus doesn't pray for a miracle—He *commands* it.
- He does not ask someone else give Him the power to raise this young man.
- His word carries the authority of God Himself. The same Word that spoke creation into existence (*Genesis 1*) now speaks life into death.
- He speaks with His own authority, and the dead man responds.

This Foreshadows Christ's Own Resurrection

- Jesus raises the son, but He Himself will go to the cross and into the tomb. The crowd at Nain witnessed a resurrection—but it was a resuscitation to mortal life. The son would one day die again. Jesus' own resurrection, however, was the firstfruits of an eternal, never-to-die-again resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:20*).
- At the end of Jesus ministry, as he raises Lazarus from the dead he said to Martha, **John 11:25** “Jesus said to her, “I am ***the resurrection and the life***. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

The Crisis — The widow's hopeless sorrow (vv. 11–12)

The Compassion — Jesus' heart for the hurting (v. 13)

The Command — Jesus speaks life to the dead (vv. 14–15)

The Confession — The crowd recognizes God's visitation (vv. 16–17)

Notice verse 16-17 after raising the young man from the dead, watch what happens...

Luke 7:16–17 - Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” ¹⁷ And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

They recognized that God had come to them.

- God had not abandoned His people.
- Jesus is the long-awaited fulfillment of God's promise to rescue and redeem.

The Connection:

- Two major prophets of the Old Testament also raised the only son of a widow:
 - **Elijah** raised the widow of Zarephath's son (*1 Kings 17:17–24*), and

- **Elisha** raised the Shunammite woman's son (*2 Kings 4:32–37*).
- Luke is unmistakably presenting Jesus as a prophet greater than Elijah and Elisha—but also more than a prophet. The crowd's response says it all: "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" (v. 16). The word "visited" (*episkopeō*) echoes Zechariah's prophecy in *Luke 1:68*: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has **visited** and redeemed his people."

Their response was more than amazement. They were acknowledging that God was at work through Jesus. The miracle pointed beyond the restored young man to the identity and authority of Jesus Himself.

Luke Does not go into detail about their response.

- No mention of the people turning from sin, trusting in Jesus as Lord
- We know they acknowledge Him as Great Prophet, but that's not enough
- That's what the Muslims say. That's what the Mormons say. That's what the Jehovah's Witnesses say. That's what almost everybody would say. "Hey, he was a great preacher."
- More than a great preacher – More than a good prophet – More than a moral teacher

He is Lord of All

The Tension: Savior Without Lordship

The crowd witnessed Jesus' power, but the passage does not merely present Jesus as a miracle worker who improves difficult circumstances. The miracle reveals **who Jesus is**. They responded, "God has visited his people!" (Luke 7:16, ESV).

We often want Jesus to rescue us from pain, provide what we need, or fix our circumstances—but we resist His authority over our lives. We want His **help** without His **rule**, His **gifts** without His **commands**, and His **rescue** without repentance.

But the Jesus who raises the dead is also the Lord who commands us to follow Him. Scripture says, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46, ESV).

Many people want Jesus as their Savior from trouble, but not as their Lord over life.

Or:

We want Jesus to change our circumstances, but not to change us.

Connecting This to Luke 7

Jesus did not merely restore the young man to physical life; He demonstrated divine authority. His command was, "Young man, I say to you, arise" (Luke 7:14). The young man received life because Jesus had authority to give it.

The proper response was not merely amazement but worship and submission. The crowd glorified God and acknowledged His visitation (Luke 7:16). When Jesus gives spiritual life, He also calls us to walk under His authority (Ephesians 2:4–10).

Application

- Do I come to Jesus mainly when I need something?
- Do I want His forgiveness while continuing to defend my sin?
- Do I ask Him to bless my plans, or do I submit my plans to Him?
- Am I willing to obey Jesus even when He does not change my circumstances?

Jesus is not a spiritual emergency service we call only when life falls apart. He is the crucified and risen Lord who deserves our whole lives (Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 5:15).

The Confession:

- ***A true confession of Jesus as Savior must include submission to Him as Lord.***
- The crowd said, "God has visited his people." The question for us is not merely, **"Do we want Jesus to help us?"** but **"Will we receive Jesus as the Lord who has authority over us?"**

Jesus sees our crisis, shows compassion, commands life, and calls for confession.

Friend, Has there ever come a time in your life when you have repented of Sin, believed in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and have called upon his name as Savior and Lord?

Believer, Disciple, let me ask you, ***Who in your sphere of influence needs the saving touch of Jesus?***

There is something powerful in our world today – Revival fires are burning

- There is a great hunger for spiritual things among Gen Z
- Many are turning to Christ – We have an opportunity to see God do amazing Things
- Would you join us on our mission?
- We want to bring hope and renewal to every person and every place in Thorsby and Beyond

There is nothing greater you can live for than to answer the call to serve Jesus