

God has visited his people!

An Exposition of Luke 7:11-17

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NOTES

There are all different types of preaching — and when the word is used in a modern sense it is linked to sermonizing.

Sermonizing came to prominence in the Middle Ages and is generally a form of preaching that is done in a formal setting for the purpose of teaching.

Teaching is a unique gifting. While everyone can and should preach, not everyone should sermonize.

To put this succinctly, all sermons are preached – but not all preaching involves a sermon.

Preaching as it's used in your Bible = the Greek word *kēryssō*.

Kēryssō means to proclaim with authority.

So... who can preach?

Romans 1:20- For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

Because we are all God-made, God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen in us.

But of all the created things, we, mankind, are the only ones that have the capacity to ask, "How?"

Are God's eternal power and divine nature being clearly seen in you OR are they being seen DESPITE you?

"A man's physical hunger does not prove that man will get any bread; he may die of starvation on a raft in the Atlantic. But surely a man's hunger does prove that he comes of a race which repairs its body by eating and inhabits a world where eatable substances exist. In the same way, though I do not believe (I wish I did) that my desire for Paradise proves that I shall enjoy it, I think it a pretty good indication that such a thing exists and that some men will."

- C.S. Lewis – The Weight of Glory

Science tells us that the human brain is predisposed to believe in the divine AND in an afterlife. According to a 2011 study by Oxford University, involving 57 researchers conducting 40 separate studies in 20 different countries concluded that we're hard wired to believe in a God and in heaven.

<https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2011/05/19/god-a-part-of-human-thought/>

And so, if Jesus is who He says He is, the question of whether you will proclaim Him is not debatable. The question is, what will your existence say about Him.

The preacher will preach a sermon.

The congregation should fully expect and be prepared to meet with Jesus.

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, There I am among them.”
(Mt18:20)

AND... when Jesus shows up — He tends to act like Jesus.

AFTER Jesus shows up and acts like Jesus, everything changes.

SCRIPTURE READING/ SERMON

Luke 7:11-12

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

Everyone in this room right now is represented in this story. Some of us are represented more than once.

Let me explain.

As I said before, Jesus is in the room. You're not Jesus in this story. Jesus is Jesus in this story. And, as always, everything revolves around Him.

- **JESUS** is in the room — He has said publicly that He is Messiah. He has inferred (through forgiving sins) that He is God.
- **JESUS FOLLOWERS** are in the room — They follow Jesus because Jesus is who He says He is.
- **PEOPLE FOLLOWING DEATH/HOPELESSNESS** are in the room — They are here for a lot of different reasons.
- **THOSE THAT ARE GRIEVING** are in the room — They have given up on their prayers. They have no more hope and no more will to hope.
- **THE PALLBEARERS** are in the room — They have given up on their friend/loved one ever changing. Now, they are enabling them in their sin.
- **THE DEAD** are in the room — They are the ones dead in sin OR dead in a particular sin. They have no agency at all anymore.

Luke 7:13-17

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

If you're the one grieving... Jesus sees you and has compassion on you. “Do not weep.”

If you're the pallbearers... Jesus is standing in front of you, forcing you to stop.

If you're dead in your sin or dead in a particular sin... remember, like you, the person in this story is powerless. There is nothing that person can do. Nevertheless, Jesus commands, “I say to you arise.”

If you're part of the crowd... whether you're the crowd following Jesus or the crowd following the funeral, as an eyewitness to what Jesus has done IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE, you now can proclaim, with authority, the things you saw and heard today.