

Luke 7 Pt 1

Love you Enemies

- Increase in lawlessness love of many will grow cold...
- **Two events displaying compassion of God.** 1) Grieving for a Friend 2) Grieving for a Son

I. Grieving for a Friend

1 Now when He concluded all **His sayings** in the hearing of the people, He entered **Capernaum.**

- **Capernaum:** Home base. North shore of Sea of Galilee. Home of Peter

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and **ready to die.** 3 So when [the centurion] heard about Jesus, he sent **elders of the Jews** to [Jesus], pleading with Him to come and **heal his servant.**

- **Centurion:** Leader over 100 men sends Jewish delegation to Jesus for help
- **Servant suffering/ready to die...**

No stronger words for his agony

Paralyzed/Dreadfully Tormented/Tortured [c.f. Mat 8]

4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this **was deserving,** 5 "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

- Rome built Jewish synagogues to keep peace in Israel
- Jewish elders beg Jesus: Come heal Roman Centurion's servant...

6 Then **Jesus went** with them.

- **Jesus' discretion:** No theology lesson this time...
 1. **Did not say:** No one is worthy...no not one
 2. **Did not say:** I came to save lost sheep of Israel. He just went

Matthew 8:7 [Parallel] **"I will come and heal him."**

6b... And when [Jesus] was already **not far from the house,** the centurion sent friends to [Jesus], saying to Him, "Lord, **do not trouble Yourself,** for **I am not worthy** that You should enter under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not even **think myself worthy to come to You.**

- Sends friends to Jesus w/new message

**I'm not worthy to ask You in person
Not worthy for You to come to my home...**

7b...But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one,

'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- **Worldly Chain of Command:**

1. Soldiers under my authority
2. I'm under authority of others and **yet I believe...**

**Your Word has Absolute Authority even over Life/Death/Sickness of my friend
You don't even have to be here to heal my friend...Just say the Word**

9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at [the Centurion's words]

- **2x Jesus marveled in NT**

1. One time at **unbelief of Jews**
2. One time at **faith of a Gentile**

**You don't have to be here to heal my friend... Just say the Word
Jesus Marveled at the childlike faith of Roman Soldier...**

9b...and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him "I say to you, I have **not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**" 10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, **found the servant well** who had been sick.

Matthew 8:10 [Parallel] When Jesus heard *it*, **He marveled**, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹ And I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and **as you have believed**, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that **same hour**.

- **Roman Centurion:** Place at Marriage Feast of the Lamb w/Abe/Isaac/Jacob
- **Jewish Pharisees** descendants of Abe/Isaac/Jake...will weep and gnash teeth

We know Jesus was given all authority in Heaven and on Earth Mat. 11

Pharisees: Self-Righteous/Despised Authority/Feared man.

Centurion: Bowed humbly to Authority/Feared God

Matthew 18:3 ... unless you are converted and become as **little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:15 ...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a **little child** will by no means enter it."

- **Childlike Faith:** Looking up in expectation

1. Humbly accepting love/instruction/authority/discipline of a good dad
2. **IOW's** My Dad can do anything. He said it. I believe it. I have a good dad

SUMMARY Grieving for a Friend. Centurion/Servant rejoice in God's goodness.

- Grieving for a friend is one thing. **Grieving for a child is another...**

II. Grieving for a Son

11 Now it happened, the day after, that [Jesus] went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

- **Two groups follow Jesus to Nain:** Disciples **AND** Large crowd of spectators

12 And when [Jesus] 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.

After the miraculous healing Jesus heads to Nain ...

- **Funeral leading out of the city:** Only son of a widowed mom carried out
- All alone...experiencing incomprehensible/unparalleled grief

Stages of Grieving in Dealing with Loss of a Loved One

Shock/Denial: Initial period after receiving news of the loss. The affected person may say, "There must be a mistake," "This can't be true," or similar expressions of disbelief. People often describe feeling numb or cold in this stage.

Bargaining: Attempt to persuade God to change the reality of loss in exchange for improved behavior or some sacrifice on the part of the bereaved person. The mourner may offer, for example, to take better care of their relationship with the loved one if God will only bring them back.

Anger: This emotion may be directed toward the medical establishment, family members, God, or even the person who has died.

Depression: In this stage, the person's body begins to absorb the reality of the loss. The bereaved person may be unable to eat, sleep, or talk normally with people. They may have episodes of spontaneous crying and such physical symptoms as nausea, headaches, chills or trembling.

Acceptance: This is the phase in which the mourner comes to terms with the loss and begins to look ahead once more. Energy returns and the bereaved person is able to reconnect with others, engage in enjoyable activities, and make plans for the future.

Q. Why all these stages?

A. Because we are trying to deal w/something that was never meant to happen

In Genesis 2:17 God said don't and if you do you will die. They did and died. Adam and Eve died spiritually that day and later physically and so all born in the image of Adam. Death was never meant to be and thus it is the greatest shock our God created consciousness. We just don't know what to do with death. [NJC]

But when your child dies...the immensity of still being alive strikes at your core. Your focus shifts back and forth between the grief you have and the gift you had. You are overwhelmed by sorrow and loss and a sense of what might have been. At the same time, you are struck by the joy and beauty and richness your child brought into the world. You are awash with the deepest-aching pain. And yet you long to celebrate your child's brief, brilliant time on this planet. That moment-to-moment tension, the never-ending whiplash to-and-fro between these two powerful instincts — the grief and the gift — **drives you mad.**

**It has been said...No parent should see their child die first
Husband gone/Only son dead:** Thoughts of Grief/Gift driving her mad...

Isaiah 61:2b [Messiah is coming...] To **comfort all who mourn**, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...

Jesus enters Nain [Beauty] and encounters Death/Mourning

- **Not accident Jesus came to Nain:** Jesus came to bring Life back from Death.
- **To turn Mourning back to Beauty...**The way it was always supposed to be

Jesus walking in the Gate of City of Beauty
Widow/Mourners walking out the Gate of City of Beauty.

13 When the Lord **saw her**, He had **compassion on her** and said to her, **"Do not weep."**

- **Jesus saw her:** The Lord saw her. **El Roi** God who sees
- **Jesus moved by her:** Felt her pain. Moved in gut with compassion.

Psalm 78:38 But He, being **full of compassion**

Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God **full of compassion...**

Psalm 111:4b The Lord is gracious and **full of compassion...**

Psalm 145:8 The Lord is gracious and **full of compassion...**

Compassion: OT heb. rt. *raw-kham'* lit. to love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, have compassion. **Always of God** with one possible exception

Compassion: NT gr. *splangkhnid'-zom-ahēē* lit. Violent passion. Moved as to one's bowels, hence, to be moved with compassion, have compassion [for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity. to have the bowels yearn, i.e., feel sympathy, to pity.

Never say God does not see. Never suppose God does not care
God the Father clearly reveals His care for us in the Person of Jesus

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus is] the brightness of [the Father's] glory/express image of His person

John 1:18 No one has seen God [the Father] at any time. The only begotten Son [NU God], who is in the **bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me **does the works.**

IOW's When Jesus has compassion on a widow carrying her dead son. His Words/Actions represent exactly what the Father says and feels about one lady's personal pain. [NJC]

When Jesus says **don't weep** He has already heard the Father say the same
And something is about to happen...Something Big

14 Then [Jesus] came and **touched the open coffin**, and those who carried him stood still...

Life touches Death...All is Still

14b... And [Jesus] said, "**Young man, I say to you, arise.**" 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak.

- **1 of 3x** Jesus raises the dead in Gospels

Each instance Jesus simply spoke the Word and the Dead Lived

Romans 4:17 gives life to the dead/calls things which do not exist as though they did...

Jesus regarded death as an enemy to be utterly defeated He finished that enemy at His Resurrection

- Jesus wept over death and did something about it

1 Timothy 2:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified **[vindicated]** in the Spirit.. [Resurrection: Victory over death]

Colossians 2:15 Having **disarmed** principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it... [Resurrection: Victory over Satan]

- So far only Jesus has resurrected from the dead. Firstfruit of many to follow
- **Here?** Restoration/Resuscitation back to life. How do we know?
 1. Boy did not have glorified body...**thus**
 2. He, as Lazarus, would die again... this time after mother?

Life touched Death. Boy sits up/begins to speak...

14c... And [Jesus] **presented him to his mother.**

- **Disciples/Spectators Amazed**/God is Glorified/God is Feared

16 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.

Life from the Dead can only mean God is Here. We have that.
Jesus came to give us Life

- **Jesus best friend Lazarus dead.** Sister Martha furious w/Jesus

John 11:23 Jesus said to [Martha], "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am**

the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26
And whoever lives and believes in **Me shall never die.** DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?...

Jesus will one day present those we lost who were in Christ back to us forever
Do you believe this?

SUMMARY Grieving for a Son. Jesus Wept over death and **did something about it**