

“Mother’s Day is a happy occasion, but a little bit sad sometimes, too. But we’re still thankful for the mothers we have, for the mothers we had, for the impact they made in our lives, and as parents, for the impact that we get to have on our children. What I want to share with you this morning, I’m going to tie it together with Mother’s Day.

We’re going to read from the 7th chapter of Luke, beginning in the 11th verse. Luke chapter 7, beginning in verse number 11. And it came to pass the day after.

There’s a comma there. And as you read your Bible, you need to go back and figure out what happened the day before. Alright?

And when you go back and look at the first part of the 7th chapter, Jesus had just the day before healed the centurion’s servant. The centurion who said that I’m not worthy that you come in to my house. I didn’t even feel worthy to go to you.”

“I sent my friends. And all I need from you is just to speak the word, and my servant will be made whole. And Jesus made the proclamation about he hadn’t found such great faith anywhere up to this point in the Gentile world as the centurion, and the servant was healed.

So this is the next day. And that is important. And I’ll tell you why in just a moment.

So it came to pass the day after that he went into a city called Naen, and many of his disciples went with him and much people. And when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother. And she was a widow, and much people of the city was with her.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier, and they that bare him stood still, and he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up and began to speak, and he delivered him to his mother.”

“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. And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judea and throughout all the region round about. I, in the 17th verse, the word rumor.

Now, we live in an age where rumors are every place. But this was a really good rumor. And as I began to prepare this, I thought, what are the rumors about Pittsburg Church?

Good? Bad? I’ve been spreading a lot of good rumors about Pittsburg.

I’ll just tell you. I hope you have do. But I’ve read this many, many times, but that word rumor just jumped out at me this time.

It has not one thing to do with what I want to share with you either. That one was extra. All right.

I just told you where Jesus has been. And the next day, he’s coming to Nain. And this little town is about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum, where he had been.”

“It’s about four miles from Mount Tabor, where depending on what Bible scholars you read, they believe is the Mount of Transfiguration. The other one they believe possibly was the Mount of Transfiguration, is Mount Hermon. And this is the only instance in the Bible where this city, this town, is mentioned.

What was it that brought Jesus to this place? It’s out of the way. They think perhaps it was coincidence.

No, you know, I don't believe in that. You know what brought Jesus to this town? A mother.

A mother. Brought Jesus to this place.

Because you see, two very distinct, very different groups of people met head on at the city gate. And the Bible tells us that Jesus and his disciples and many other people, much people, the Bible says, were coming from Capernaum into Nahum. The Bible also says that there was a mother who was also a widow, bringing her son, who had passed away, out of the city, with all of her friends, with all of her family, and much people from that city were with her."

"Why did the Bible point out that it was her only son that had passed? Why did the Bible point out that she was a widow? Because in this time, among these people, if the wife was widowed, it fell to the son's responsibility to care for them.

Even the Bible talks about how that we need to care for the fatherless and the widows. It's God's word. And the fact that she had no husband and no son to care for her was very significant.

It would be very easily for her to be taken advantage of by unscrupulous people because she had literally now no one to look out for her. And this is a terrible situation. Parents are not supposed to have to bury the children.

It's supposed to be the other way around. Not that it's pleasant anyway. But here she was.

The group coming into town with Jesus, they were very jubilant. They were very happy. They were excited.

They were still talking about the miracle the day before. They were still talking about how Jesus didn't even go in and see this guy. He literally just spoke the word."

"And they would talk. They talked about all the way the next day, the trip and everything. And there was there was excitement and there was anticipation.

And there was all of these things about about what had happened yesterday. Another group coming out of town were very solemn. And they were very sad at the tragedy that had taken place.

The grief of this mother was tremendous. The heartbreak she felt was unlike perhaps anything she had experienced, save the loss of her husband.

Two very distinct things happening in the exact same place. One filled with great happiness, the other, and I'm going to call it the way of the world, was filled with great sorrow, with death and hopelessness, because as far as they were concerned, this was over. And in reality, what happened that day?

Life and death ran head on to one another. The life of Jesus coming in to the city, and the death of the world coming out of the city. Literally, a life and death meeting took place at this very point."

"1 Corinthians 15 and 26, it calls death the last enemy, the last enemy.

Life and the division of life and death had its beginning in the Garden of Eden, if you recall, when Jesus created Adam, and then later on created Eve to be his helper. And you know, the world tells us that women are the, quote unquote, weaker sex. I don't buy that for a minute.

Uh-uh. Because I'm telling you, if God had made it where the men bore the children, there would only be single children in every family. Yeah, there would.

And there would be many families that had no children because we men talk. And we just said, you do not want to do that. But you women are stronger at that.

You women have the power that we do not have. Your child can come in with a scrape or a scratch and be screaming bloody murder. And dad and mom are standing there, and they will fly right by dad and go to mom, and dad will try, he'll say, you're fine.

No, they're going to mom. And mom says, you're fine. Dads can't do that, but moms can."

"You have that ability. You are built differently than we are. Thankfully, thankfully, moms are kind of the thing.

Wives, and even though God calls them a help meet, they kind of keep everything together and keep everything going. So when Adam and Eve were created, they're in the Garden of Eden, and God made Adam, and then he came forth and made Eve. And then they fell from grace, doing the one thing God told them not to do.

And the Bible says when they did that, they took fig leaves and sewed them together to cover themselves. Okay? Now hang on.

Now Genesis 3 and 21 says that God made them coats of skins to cover themselves. To do that, a sacrifice had to be made. Animals had to be slain for these coats to be made.

A sacrifice for the sin of Adam and Eve, perhaps. Perhaps also a foreshadowing in the book of Genesis of what was going to happen in the New Testament with the Lamb of God. The sacrifice for the sin of the entire world."

"Revelation 3 and 18 talks about the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world, the Garden of Eden, the foreshadowing in Genesis. Now, why did God do that? Why did God cover them when they had already covered themselves?

You see, when you begin to look deep into this word, you find that God didn't do anything ever just to be doing it. Every moment with God is a teaching moment, I believe. And he's trying to get us to see something, to grasp something.

He was trying to tell them that you cannot cover your own sins on your own. He was trying to show them that even though you think that's good enough, it's not good enough. You can't do this on your own, not by your own efforts, not by your own abilities.

It has to be through Christ and Christ alone. You cannot, I don't care how hard and how much effort you put into, you cannot make yourself righteous. Righteousness comes from Christ."

"And I believe that's what he was doing. Now, in the moment that these two groups met, everything they were going to do stopped. This was literally living in the moment.

You know, I'm realizing how much more we need to learn to live in the moment. How much we need to learn to just, hey, I know we got all these things, but I'm going to get y'all out of here in

plenty of time for your Mother's Day lunches and an afternoon, whatever it might be. I will not hold you late.

I promise. I shouldn't make that promise, because if the Lord shows up, you know, but I'll do my best. How's that?

Okay. But living in the moment, living in the moment is not about what we're going to do later, it's about what we're doing right now. Living in the moment matters.”

“We've got to learn to slow down enough to live in the moment because this bunch coming out had planned on going to the to the burial place. This bunch coming in had planned on, you know, excitement and enjoying anticipation of a great thing happening in that city, too. And here they are, all of a sudden everything stopped.

All their plans didn't matter because life and death have come head on right here in this spot at this moment. What we forget is already preordained by Christ. He knew exactly why he was coming and whether anybody else did or not.

That mother had no idea because of her grief, but Jesus came to that spot, to that town, because of a mother. Mothers make the difference. Mothers can make the difference.

If you've got a praying mom or a praying grandma, and you're not right with God, I'm praying for you, because your time is numbered. Your days are numbered. Because they are on you, and they are not going to quit, quit, and give up till they get you.”

“And you're going to be miserable, and you're going to be unhappy, and your mom's going to love you and smile when you ain't looking because she wants you to be miserable till you get your life right with Jesus. But if you've got a praying mom and a praying grandma, you just won't give it up, because they are on you. And Jesus hears those prayers.

I mean, this mom, I don't know exactly what she had prayed for. I don't know exactly what she was looking for, but I'm telling you, Jesus did, and He didn't just happen to show up at that town that day. He came to that spot, to that place for a mother.

Yeah. You think you got pulled with the Lord? Let your momma start praying.

So there they are. They're all standing still. The meeting of life and death there on the road.

The thirteenth verse says that Jesus saw her. He saw her. Jesus sees us, church.

When everything's great, He sees us. When everything's difficult, He still sees us. He sees what you're going through.”

“He knows what's happening in your life. And He will send people that you didn't expect to be there, and all of a sudden, they're there. Maybe it's a text.

Maybe it's a phone call. Maybe it's somebody you haven't talked to in months. All of a sudden, gives you a call or reaches out to you.

God knows what you're going through. He sees where you're at. He sees what's going on.

Jesus saw her. You need to understand how important that is, that Jesus sees us exactly as we are. This was one of her worst days in her life, and Jesus saw her.

He saw her for who she was, saw her for what she was going through, saw the agony and the hurt that she was experiencing, and showed up at this point for this very thing. And not only did he see her, the Bible says, the King James Version says, he had compassion on her.

The NIV Version says his heart went out to her. There's another version that says he was heartbroken for her. Not only did he see her, but he knew how she felt."

"He had compassion. He realized the pain and the hurt that she was going through.

And he told her to weep not. Now, something else you need to understand. In this day and age, they didn't delay burials.

Usually, it was the same day, because it's very hot in this part of the world. They did not have the things we have today. So many times, if you died in the morning, you were in the grave in the afternoon.

Or if you died in enough time, they would bury you quickly. So, Jesus tells her to weep not, but even in this short time, how many times do you think she'd been told this exact phrase? Don't cry.

I know it's hard, but don't cry. Why was this time different than any other time? Because she felt something she hadn't felt before.

She experienced something she hadn't experienced before. The heartbrokenness was still there, but there was comfort in the words of Jesus. Even though she'd been told time and time again throughout the day, don't cry.

Don't weep."

"And then Jesus did something else. In the 14th verse, it says, He came and He touched the stretcher, what they were carrying this young man in. Some Bible commentators think it might have been a coffin.

I personally don't, but whatever it was, Jesus touched it. He did not touch the young man. Jewish law, Jewish tradition comes in to play here.

By touching the stretcher, the priests and rabbis would proclaim him unclean for a day. Had he touched the young man, they would proclaim him unclean for a week. That's another reason that all burial was outside of the cities.

They didn't bury him inside the city, but it could be outside, so uncleanness in Jewish law and Jewish tradition. Okay? Now, I believe that when he touched that stretcher, number one, everything stopped.

Number two, I personally think they set it down. I don't think they kept carrying it. I think they set it down.

Now, I talked about the laws of cleanliness, but let me add one thing to that why I believe he touched the stretcher and not the young man."

"The stretcher was carrying him to what they believed was his intended fate. Jesus put a stop to where the world was carrying him by touching the stretcher. Jesus can put a stop to where the world is carrying you right now, if you will just allow him to.

There is a meeting of life and death that goes on in churches throughout America every Sunday, where Jesus is going to put everything to stop and embrace that moment I'm talking about, or talked about a moment ago, how that he stopped everything, and he can touch the thing that is carrying you out into the world and put a stop to it, okay? He touched the issue before he touched the guy. He stopped what was happening, and nobody got it, nobody understood it, but yet Jesus knew exactly what he was doing by stopping what was carrying him to his intended end in the world."

"You need to understand, and moms know this for their children, and grandmas know this, and so do dads as far as that goes. When they begin to pray for their children, they know that we have an enemy that wants your children. He wants your children.

He's not giving you as much grief now as he is your children because that's how he's trying to get to you. If he can't get you to fall, he'll try to get your kids to fall. If he can't get you to turn your back on him, he'll try to get your kids to turn your back on him.

We need to double down on our prayers for our young people and our children and lift them up and pray that whatever is carrying them out into the world, Jesus would just put His hand on it and stop it dead in His tracks because that's exactly what He did right here. And it can happen, church. I mean, the whole world, all these people gathered, all the people behind Jesus wondering, what is He doing?"

"All the people with the woman coming out of the city with His mother saying, what is He doing? He knew exactly what He was doing. We would be so much better off if we'd quit trying to figure it out and just let God do what only God can do.

I don't read where anybody said, what's He doing? A lot of them thought it without a doubt. But thankfully, nobody voiced it.

So He's got it all stopped. And they're all wondering what now. He not touched the young man.

Didn't lay a hand on him. He said this, Young man, I say unto thee, arise.

Now this boy could have just laid there and said, No, I'm good. Like so many people in churches everywhere do, service after service. Jesus is calling him from death unto life.

And this mother wants that more than anything. Because moms that know Jesus and love Jesus want their kids to know Jesus and love Jesus. All right?"

"And if they have the opportunity to hear Jesus say, Child, arise from death and come into life, mom's going to be all about that. She said, Jesus said, Young man, I say unto thee, arise. And he that was dead, make no mistake, he was dead.

He sat up. And the Bible says something else. He began to speak.

And you know, I talk about that long list of things I want to know when I get to heaven. Because the Bible says in heaven, all things will be made known. I got a list.

I mean, a long one. And one of the things on my list, I want to know what this guy said. I want to know what were his first words from coming from the dead back into a life.

What did he say? Hi, mom. I don't know.

But I will one day. I will one day. But it was important enough that the Bible writers had to say, and he began to speak.

I think he had a lot to say, actually. I think he had a lot to say. When you're beginning to speak, you know, he's talking."

"He's talking. It is if setting up on the dead man's stretcher wasn't enough to show he was alive. He began to speak.

He began to talk for goodness sake. I believe he probably began to testify. He didn't know about this man named Jesus.

But when he heard Jesus called out to him, he felt something he had never experienced before. He was changed from death unto life by the power of Jesus without him ever being touched. Just the spoken word of God will change lives.

It still works the same way today. This spoken word of God will change your life. You know, sometimes you need to read the Bible out loud.

Well, why? Because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Read it out loud.

Quote it out loud. When you're riding in your truck or your car and the devil's sitting in the passenger seat telling you how bad life is, that all this is going the wrong way, just begin to quote scripture out loud. He doesn't like it.

It'll help you. So it's a win-win situation, for goodness sake. This young man set up and began to speak.

"I mean, this is a big deal. Jesus could have took this kid and brought him into the name. What a revival would have broke out, because he said, hey, this is what this young man was doing.

You all know he was dead. He's alive, and he's sitting right here, but he didn't do that. He could have took him on the road with him and traveled from different places.

What a testimony this young man had. But you know what Jesus did? He delivered him back to his mamma.

Back to his mother. Do you know why? Because she needed her only son to be her son, and she could be his mom.

This story, I preach this a lot of times about this life and death meeting, but I've never tied mom in it just like I did today.

Moms, a praying mother isn't like anything else. And I don't know what her prayers were, but I know what her heartbreak was. You can only imagine how heartbroken she was to lose her only son."

"And even though the world had said it's too late, too late, it's never too late where Jesus is concerned. It's never too late where Jesus is concerned. Moms, don't quit praying.

Dads, don't quit praying. Grandmas, don't quit praying. Don't quit believing.

Don't give up. I can tell you story after story of God showing up when the world is falling apart around about you. God makes a difference if we'll just allow Him to.

There's no coincidences in this life.

How much easier would it have been on the mom if Jesus had showed up a few days prior? We don't know what happened to this young man. That's another thing on mother's.

I wonder what happened to him. We don't know if he was sick. We don't know if it was an accident.

We don't know. Irregardless, the end result was the same. And man would have been nice if Jesus had showed up a few days earlier and say it was an accident.”

“Jesus said, son, don't do that. But this is how God chose to use it. This is how God chose to do it.

This is the way. Because I already told you, rumors spread around about Him, about what happened in the little city. It's only mentioned one time in the Bible.

This incident only recorded one time in the Word of God by Luke on behalf of mothers.

Greg, you got one more song?

Young people, children, and you can be my age and still be a children, okay? So when I say that, that's what I'm saying. If you're looking for the perfect thing to get mom this year, I don't care how much money you spend or what you bought.

You get right with Jesus, be the best mother the day she's ever had. The best. You want to do something special for mom?

Get your life turned around. Get your heart right. Be guided by your heart instead of your head for a while.

Well, I know, I know. What your head is telling you seems right. Yeah, but what your heart is telling you is right.

Would you stand with me this morning, please?”