

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"MOVED WITH COMPASSION" | LUKE 7:11-17 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Which is more comforting at a funeral, the music or the stories?

"The Brokenhearted Mother" (Luke 7: 11-12)

As Jesus enters Nain, he sees a widow at her own son's funeral, in a society where women had few options to support themselves.

What groups of people today are especially vulnerable during tragedies?

"The Tenderhearted Messiah" (Luke 7: 13-17)

Jesus is "moved with compassion" and raises this dead son to life without being asked. **What does that show about Jesus? What does that mean for people?**

Jesus allowed what He saw to move Him with compassion which led to him to action. **What gets in the way of people today being moved with compassion? What are ways to have action led by compassion?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus enters into this widow's grief and His act of compassion caused the crowd to glorify God. **Have you praised God for His compassion towards you lately? Have you been grateful for the compassion that others have received? Take time to think about His compassion and thank Him for all His acts of kindness this week.**

Moved With Compassion

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-9 Lar: AV. Baby Bottles. FF. REAL. At Risk. SP. Employment. VIDEO.
- B. Slide10 Jasmine Sharing:
- C. Mother's Day gifts are located in the foyer on the tables. We invite you to pick one up on your way out.
- D. Congrats to my daughter Mical & Tyler, going to have a *lil girl* in Aug.
- E. On Mother's Day there is a real *tension* between celebration/honor and sorrow/hardship. *Rejoice w/those who Rejoice & Weep w/those who weep.*
 - 1. To all the Moms: single moms. moms that have lost a child. or if you have lost your mom. maybe you're caring for your elderly mom. or you're longing to be a mom. to the mom whose had an abortion in her past. to the new moms. to the first time moms. to the grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren as moms. to the working moms. to the stay at home moms. to the *seem's to be* perfect mom.
 - a) All mom's need to reach for Jesus! All mom's need Jesus. Let the Lord simply love you today. Prov.31:31 *Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.*
- F. Prayer:

II. Slide11 Intro: Moved With Compassion

- A. Our last story was in the larger city of Capernaum (re: a Gentile Centurion, Jesus healed his son from afar). *If you'll strap on your sandals with me* we are going to walk a dusty 25 miles SW to a little village called **Nain**. (pop. 200)
 - 1. So we go from an influential soldier to a poor widow. She represents Jesus' mission when He said, *the good news will be presented to the poor*
 - 2. The story stresses the *adequacy & authority* of Jesus' Word.

3. At the foot of Nain's slope is the great *Valley of Jezreel*. This was the 1st of 3 miracles Jesus did in *raising of the dead*.

B. *Outline: The Brokenhearted Mother & The Tenderhearted Messiah.*

C. Prayer:

III. Slide12 THE BROKENHEARTED MOTHER (11,12) READ

A. A *dead son* – a declaration of *despair*. Whether it's the death of a child, or a child that is estranged, or isn't speaking to you, is strung out on __ & not speaking to you.

B. Slide13 Here 2 processions collide at *Nain's* city gate.

1. In one procession the central figure is **Christ**, in the other a **corpse**.
2. One group is **entering** the city, the other **leaving** the city.
3. Here **death** meets *life*, **disorder** meets *order*, **mourning** meets *ministry*
4. In one group *joy & gladness*, the other *sorrow & sadness*.

IV. Slide14 THE TENDERHEARTED MESSIAH (13-17) READ

A. Slide15a A COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR (13)

B. Now, this all happens *without* any expression of **faith**. Jesus just does it. It's not like the centurion who asked for his help. *That is like our Jesus.*

1. And He still acts this way towards us, Jesus blesses us immensely even when we don't ask him to.

C. Slide15b He enters into her **pain**, He enters into her **agony**. *Why?* The text says, *he had compassion on her.*

1. Jesus had all the authority, **but** he also had **compassion**. **If He only had authority with no compassion, we would tremble today.**
2. Luke uses the deepest word that he could use (splank-Nee-zoMY) *to be deeply moved with your bowels/guts*. **He feels deeply for her.** prod dad/Gd Sam

- a) **Why is it significant?** because you know we will suffer some *dark days* in each our lives (or, a *Dark Night of the Soul*¹). **And Jesus shines in the shadows.**
- b) You may have come in today w/**pain** so deep. So **wounded** by trauma. **And** you come into our church service **and** you feel *unlike everybody else*. You're **not unlike** everyone else, *everyone needs the touch of Jesus*.
- c) **And** there is not a wound that I have, that *He* does not know about, **and** that *He* cannot heal.

D. **Slide15c** What did Jesus' heart snag on? **A mother** ... who lost her only son ... after losing her husband/*widow*. [the 2nd time she was robbed of her provider & protector]

1. **A mother** is what *caught His heart* ... not nec the dead son.

E. Instead of *a flash-back* I wonder if Jesus was having a *flash-forward* to his own mother?

1. Mary would experience these *same feelings & deep hurts*, **but** He will not be able to **stop** that process (of His mother's sword).

2. The lady's **son** would've been her means of support. **This, a day of no Soc.Sec., retirement account, pension, life insurance.**

a) One writer put it, "*Though her life ended, her existence continued.*"

b) It's in this moment that **Jesus enters** into her *sadness*. **He enters** into the most **Slide15d** agonizing day of her life. **Remember**, He had been sent *to heal the brokenhearted*.

3. Jesus and his team could've done what we all do when a funeral procession goes by, *we pull over*. **Jesus** instead, **stops** all of the cars, **walks up to the hearse**, and **says**, *Young man, I say to you, arise*.

F. **Slide15e** **Do not weep** – **Wait, what?** (Ps: if you're at a funeral, *don't say that!*).

1. We don't make light of grief, **and** healthy Christian' **grieve**. We actually are told to join them, *weep with those that weep*.

2. **But Jesus** says it here, **because** *He anticipates doing something about it*.

3. It was a *declaration of compassion*.

¹ St. John of The Cross' Book.

G. Slide 15f Note Jesus reacted by: Seeing, feeling, speaking, & acting.

1. **Seeing** – Look for opportunities. (don't be so absorbed in ... you!)
2. **Feeling** – Allow your heart to feel. (don't become callous to *others* needs/hurts)
3. **Speaking** – Speak Up. (don't allow the crowd to muzzle you)
4. **Acting** – Do good, do something. (don't only be touched on the inside. True sympathy must be put into action). ***Feelings must become touch or they will soon evaporate.***²

H. Slide 16a FUNERAL CRASHER (14,15a)

I. Jesus spoke to the dead & he heard.

1. See, the **dead** are **alive** (spiritually) they're just detached from their body.
2. **Jesus**, a **sympathizing friend**, a **living reality**, a **powerful Lord**.

J. Slide 16b I say to you, arise – a declaration of power over death.

1. Here, ***Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*** 1 Cor.15:54,55
 - a) Here is a precursor to His final mission – *to abolish death*.

K. Jesus knew just how to ruin a perfectly good funeral.

1. He never **attended** nor **officiated** 1 funeral service, that we know of.
2. This **funeral procession** turned into **a Walk for Life**.

L. Slide 16c **Then the deadman sat up and began to speak.** *That's just freaky.* **What did the pallbearers do? And, I wonder what he said?**

1. ***"Hey, let me down! Get me out of this box. Mom, I promise to be good!"***
Maybe his 1st word was ... **ema**/mother.

M. Slide 17a A HAPPY MOTHER (15b)

N. And Jesus **gave him** to his mother (it was about *her*) - another display of **compassion**.

² Griffith Thomas, pg.125.

1. **Slide17b** Even death is in the reach of Jesus' power. **So why doesn't Jesus raise a bunch people right now?** The same reason He *didn't do it* in the gospels.

a) We only have 3 cases where this happens in Luke's Gospel. **Why doesn't he Slide17c raise up a bunch of people? Because it is not time yet. Listen, but *soon it will be! Soon it will be friends. Soon we will hear get up Andrew, arise; Get up Angie, arise. We are resurrection people.***

b) 1 Thes.4:16 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.***

O. **Do not despair.** He may not raise your love one back to this world, but Jesus' promise is still true today, *he who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.*

P. **Slide18 A GOD VISIT** (16,17)

Q. **What is the response of the people of Nain?**

R. **Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God -**

S. **A great prophet has arisen among us.**

1. They were probably thinking about the prophet **Elisha**, who did this miracle just over the hill from them. **This happened many years back, and was recorded in the Jewish writings of 1 kings 17.**

2. Actually both Elijah and Elisha raised someone from the dead, **both praying to the Father for this.** The **difference** with Jesus is He didn't pray to a *higher power*, as **He was the higher power.** He just says 1 word, **arise**, and he rose. **Because he is more than a prophet, He is the divine son of God.**

T. **God has visited His people** – They didn't realize how accurate they were.

U. **Don't miss the fact:** again, **nothing is mentioned** about the **mothers faith**, or lack thereof. **Nothing is mentioned** of any lesson after this to the crowds following Him. **It wasn't even prompted** by the crowds to prove His divinity.

1. It was solely from the well of divine compassion. Someone *broken, hurting, weak, frail* ... moved the heart of God!
 2. Billy Graham said, *The God who has everything...wanted me.*
- V. *Slide19* God hath *not* promised *sun* w/o *rain*, *Joy* w/o *sorrow*, *peace* w/o *pain*;
But God hath promised *strength* for the day, *Rest* for the labor, *light* for the way.
Annie Johnson Flint

W. **Mother's Day gifts* are located in the foyer on the tables. We invite you to pick one up on your way out.

X. Keywords: death, Jesus, resurrection.