

July 23, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
Luke 7:11-17 – “The Resurrection Power of Jesus”

- A. Why trust Jesus? Others claiming to be spiritual authorities want you to trust them instead.
- B. At this time in His ministry, Jesus had continued to grow in popularity.  
— After His 2nd trip to Capernaum, we find out that he left for another city in the region of Galilee called Nain. His popularity was evident in v11: **“Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; & His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd.”**

Put your faith in Jesus who has resurrection power.	I. <u>THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST</u> II. <u>THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST</u>
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I. THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST → vv12-13

- A. The widow of Nain was in a terrible predicament.
  - 1. Her husband died some time prior to this event.
  - 2. Her only son had to take up the responsibility to care for her needs.
    - a. Prior to the illness that took his life, her son was likely working to support their household.
    - b. After his death, she likely expected to have to glean fields for her sustenance.
    - c. There were not as many options for gainful employment for women in Israel at this time in history.
- B. This mother had many reasons to grieve and weep.
  - 1. She would miss her son as she was already missing her late husband.
  - 2. She was expecting to become lonely.
  - 3. This widow was also dreading how much harder her life was going to be.
  - 4. For reasons like this, v13 tells us **“When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, & said to her, ‘Do not weep.’”**
- C. In many cases, it can be aggravating when someone tells you, “Do not weep.”
  - 1. Often, their reasoning for saying that is wrong, insensitive, and even unloving.
    - a. Lovers of Rom 8:28f may read those verses to you while telling you not to weep; however, Paul’s magnificent writings on God’s providence & preservation of His saints doesn’t say weeping isn’t allowed.
    - b. In Paul’s same epistle, he wrote **“Rejoice with those who rejoice, & weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15).**
  - 2. Jesus had great, compassionate cause to tell the widow of Nain not to weep, because He was going to do something about this great tragedy in her life.
- D. Jesus had compassion on the widow because He is our compassionate high priest. → Heb 4:14-16
  - 1. Just as He had sympathy for this grieving mother, He can sympathize with your weaknesses.
  - 2. Earthly priests of old were prevented by death from continuing their ministry. **“Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever... is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:24f).**
  - 4. Seek His compassionate help if you are dealing with a particular trial; we all must seek His grace & saving work because of our sins.

## II. THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST → **vv14-15**

- A. Some skeptics will likely say that the young man was not really dead yet in a deep coma.
- B. There are sound arguments that this young man was truly dead.
1. If the man was in a coma, at least faint breathing would have been evident.
  2. When a person dies a caregiver didn't just put his or her body in a coffin or on a stretcher for the funeral procession without first cleaning & caring for the dead body.
  3. Within hours after death, chemical changes within muscles cause a body to become stiff.
  4. Scripture— our ultimate authority— says he was dead; therefore, we are to believe God at His Word that the man was dead.
- C. When **v14** says Jesus **“came up & touched the coffin,”** some sources explain that the Greek word here described “an open coffin or bier [platform] on which the dead person was carried to burial”<sup>1</sup>
- D. After bearers of the open coffin came to a halt, Jesus said to the dead person, **“Young man, I say to you, arise!”**
1. Those present would have been astonished when they saw the young, dead man obey the voice of Jesus; **v15a** says **“The dead man sat up & began to speak.”**
  2. The compassionate thoughtfulness of our Savior was evident when **“Jesus gave him back to his mother” (15b).**
- E. Look at the crowd's reaction in **vv16-17** **“Fear gripped them all, & they began glorifying God, saying, ‘A great prophet has arisen among us!’ and, ‘God has visited His people!’ This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.”**
1. Scripture says that you ought to put your faith in Jesus because He has been **“attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs” (Acts 2:22).**
  2. These Jews present knew of great prophets such as Elijah and Elisha who both resurrected the dead. That is why they said, **“A great prophet has arisen among us!”**
    - a. They had not discovered yet how Jesus was far greater than any human prophet.
    - b. Jesus raised the young man in Nain, yet Jesus Himself could not be kept in the grave after He was laid to rest. He was raised from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day as He foretold.
    - c. The great resurrection power of Jesus was not just in raising this man, nor in His own resurrection, it is also made evident in the lives of Christians. **Rom 6:4** says, **“we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”**
- F. The people in Nain told of Christ's resurrection power **“all over Judea & all the surrounding district.”** In like fashion, seek to tell others about the person & work of Jesus.

Review, further application, & conclusion:

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<sup>1</sup> Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.