

# Jesus and a Hurting Mother

Lu 7:11-17

## Introduction:

1. A young man surrendered to the ministry at the age of 17. The following year he was called on to preach his first funeral. "I had only attended one funeral in my life up to that point, my grandfather's when I was about 8 yrs old so I didn't really know what to do or say. I thought to myself, 'What would Jesus do?' I began studying the gospels to see how Jesus conducted funerals. I made an amazing discovery: Jesus didn't conduct any funerals – He broke them up. Jesus was at Lazarus' tomb four days after the funeral and He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus showed up at Jairus' house just hours after his 12 yr old daughter had died and Jesus raised her. And here Jesus broke up another funeral."
2. Because of God's curse mothers greatly suffer in giving birth
3. Often, mothers experience pain and hurt through happenings and experiences that do not affect some of us husbands.
4. Mothers have feelings and responses that others never know.
5. A sensitive mother loves everyone and hurts for everyone in the family. A mother of a large family was once asked, "Which one of your children do you think you love the most?" After a moment of thought, she answered beautifully, "The one who is sick until he gets well, and the one who is away until he gets home." And, that's the way it is, isn't it?
6. In the text before us, we meet a hurting mother.
7. While it is true that the miracle in these verses before us involved the widow's son, it is apparent that He Who was "made of a woman" had a heart for this hurting mother
8. "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her"
9. I am preaching on the subject: "Jesus, And A Hurting Mother."

## I. CHRIST'S CONCERN FOR A HURTING MOTHER – vs 11-12

- Jesus had been in Capernaum (7:1-10). He had traveled 18 miles to reach the village of Nain
- He came to the scene in the hour of this mother's crisis, in the hour of her need, right on time.
- As she was going out of town to bury her son, Jesus was coming in to town! In her hour of need, J was just in time
- All funerals are mournful things, but none is more sad than the one here described. It was the funeral of a young man, and he was the only son of his mother and she was a widow. This account is full of misery
- He had come to identify with her broken heart, and to reveal His mighty power.
- Christ's identity with this mother reminds us that:

### A. *Jesus is Concerned With Our Situations*

1. Jesus could have gone to a hundred other villages.
2. There would have been needs wherever He journeyed
3. But, it was in His heart to go to Nain.
  - a) *This is the only time this little town is mentioned*
  - b) *Here was a need there that demanded His attention*
  - c) *In Nain He would identify with this hurting mother*
4. Jesus probably started to Nain even before the boy died
  - a) *The climate in Palestine made it imperative that bodies be interred soon after death took place.*
  - b) *Before the hour of her crisis Jesus identified with her*
5. Jewish cemeteries were always situated outside the walls of the city and the burial took place at sunset
6. Whatever your circumstances may be, long before you ever came down this rough road, before this heaviness came over your heart, the Lord Jesus had you on His heart
7. Before you knew anything about this situation, in His omniscience, He knew all about it.
8. This account also teaches us that:

## **B. Jesus is Concerned About Our Sorrows – vs 12**

1. This dear woman had already been to the place of burial for we are told that she was a "widow" – vs 12
  - a) *The mother had been to the cemetery before, to bury her husband*
  - b) *But, now, her heart experiences double grief / sorrow*
  - c) *Her marriage partner was gone, but their son was a sacred legacy of love to cheer the lonely heart of the widow*
  - d) *How often had she clasped that treasured gift to her heart as she dropped a silent tear over his cradle*
2. She was not just going to bury her son, but to make the burden heavier, he was her "only son" – vs 12
  - a) *He probably had hopes of marriage / children*
  - b) *There may have been plans to start a business to care for his mother and future family*
  - c) *That mind that had hoped and dreamed was stilled by the cold embrace of death*
3. Yet, in this dark time, the Lord Jesus identified with her sorrow, and came where she was.
  - a) *Others stood over to the side until all the grieving ones passed by*
  - b) *Jesus heard the bitter sobs and weeping from the midst of the crowd from the village*
  - c) *Even with the crowd supporting her, she stood alone*
  - d) *But we're told that the Lord Jesus came right to the "bier" – vs 14*
  - e) *This touching scene reminds us that in sorrow, not just in our times of joy and gladness, the Lord Jesus comes near and identifies with us.*
4. See the mercy and grace here.
  - a) *Christ was not summoned to come to Nain.*
  - b) *This mother did not plead with Him to come to her aid.*

Secondly, we notice:

## II. CHRIST'S COMPASSION FOR A HURTING MOTHER – vs 13

**13** And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

- "And when the Lord saw her..." not "When the Lord saw the boy's body," but "when the Lord saw her."
- "He had compassion on her." -- "Weep not"
- Christ's interest was genuine and real. He came unsolicited
- He was interested in this mother's broken heart!

Two aspects of genuine interest are set forth, first notice:

### **A. He Focused On Her**

1. The words "the Lord saw her" indicate that Jesus focused upon this dear woman.
2. In a general sense, His heart went out to the whole group of mourners.
3. But, in a specific way, He had a heart for this hurting mother.
4. He singled her out and considered her need.
5. In our age, if there is a cause, it seems that the only way to get the attention of the media is to assemble masses of people. It is unfortunate that a large group seems to be heard more easily than individuals.
6. This was not the case, with the Lord Jesus. He has a heart for individuals – Ps 34:15

**15** The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

This account also teaches us that:

### **B. He Sympathized With Her**

1. There is more here than just sympathy
2. "Compassion," comes from two Greek words which suggest "to suffer with."
3. It carries with it the idea of entering into one's sufferings, and giving assistance.

### III. CHRIST'S COMMAND TO A HURTING MOTHER – vs 13

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

- Jesus not only "saw" this sorrowing mother, and "had compassion on her," but He had a word for her.
- The Bible says that "He said unto her, Weep not" – vs 13
- Before He performed a miracle for her, He performed a miracle in her with His word.
- His heart was so touched by her pain, He could not be silent

In Christ's words to the widow, we see that:

#### **A. The Charge Was Personal**

1. Jesus did not speak to everyone in the crowd.
2. He didn't even speak to two or three of the people.
3. It was a special word, spoken to a special person, in a special way, at a special time.
4. It was a personal moment!
  - a) *Sometimes Jesus speaks to us in the time of worship.*
  - b) *Sometimes Jesus speaks to us in the sunshine of life's blessings.*
  - c) *Sometimes He speaks in the darkness of life's trials*

This word also shows us that:

#### **B. The Charge Was Purposeful**

1. The Savior was not just telling her to stop crying
2. He was also assuring her that He was going to take care of the situation
3. His word was Heaven's cure for a hurting heart.
4. From the beginning, the word of God has prepared the way for His work. First, the Lord said, "Let there be light." Then, we are told, "And there was light" - Gen 1:3
5. Here Jesus gave the instruction and then, He performed the miracle.

This brings us to a fourth lesson, a lesson regarding:

## **IV. CHRIST'S CURE FOR A HURTING MOTHER – vs 14**

- In the next two verses, we come to the miracle itself.
- Note that the Savior spoke with His Own authority.
- The Prince of Peace is stronger than the king of terrors

In this miracle, we witness:

### **A. There Was a Resuscitation**

1. The resuscitation of this mother's son was one of three in the ministry of Christ.
  - a) *He raised Jairus' daughter - Mark 5:41, 42*
  - b) *He raised Lazarus from the dead - John 11:43, 44*
  - c) *And, here He raised the widow of Nain's son*
2. As we contemplate this scene, we see the young man's resuscitation as a miracle.
3. Dear friends, our circumstances cannot and do not present any obstacles too difficult for the Lord Jesus.
4. As He raised the cold, lifeless body of this boy, He can bring our cold, lifeless hopes to life again. Hear Him say, "I say unto thee, Arise."

### **B. There was a Restoration**

1. Life Was Restored
  - a) *The funeral was called off!*
  - b) *The pallbearers were sent home!*
  - c) *Mourning was turned into joy!*
  - d) *"And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother" (7:15).*
  - e) *The young man's faculties were restored to him.*
  - f) *He even began to talk. I wonder what he said*
2. Family Was Restored
  - a) *Then his family-life was restored to him.*
  - b) *Jesus "delivered him to his mother."*
  - c) *Mother received her son back*
  - d) *Son received his mother*

In vs 16-17, we observe:

## **V. CHRIST'S IDENTITY CLARIFIED THROUGH A HURTING MOTHER**

**16** 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. **17** And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

- When Jesus raised this boy from the dead great fear came on all
- When Paul spoke to King Festus of the Person and work of Christ, he reminded him, "This thing was not done in a corner" (Acts 26:26). And, this miracle in Nain was not performed in obscurity. It was a public manifestation of divine power, and the influence of this intervention was known and felt in many lives.

In the response to this miracle, we are made aware of:

### **A. God was Glorified**

1. The fear of God overwhelmed the population.
2. There was a general impression of Christ's supernatural gifts, as He was called "a great prophet,"
3. There was also a specific consciousness of a divine visitation.
4. They "glorified God," for, they believed that "God had visited His people" (7:16).
5. The King of the ages chose to use a mother's desperation, hurt and pain, as a channel of His mighty power.
6. In her weakness, His strength was made perfect.
7. In her brokenness, His glory was revealed.

The concluding words of the text also remind us of:

### **B. Word Spread About Jesus' Power**

1. The whole area was affected by this supernatural work
2. Word of this miracle spread all through Judea
3. The news was not limited to Nain.
4. Through this hurting mother's sorrows, the influence of the Lord Jesus was more widespread.
5. Teaching her students about magnetism, a school teacher brought a few magnets to class, placed them on the table, and illustrated how they worked. She promised them a quiz on the subject the next week. When she gave the quiz, one of the questions read, "My name starts with the letter 'M.' I have six letters and I pick up things. What am I?" Of course, she wanted the word "Magnet." But, all the children wrote down the word, "Mother."
6. In one sense, through her suffering and pain, this little mother in Nain became a magnet.
7. The Lord used her desperation to attract others to Himself
8. He will do the same for hurting mothers in our day.

### Conclusions:

1. Times of sorrow are valuable times of learning for us.
2. "I walked a mile with laughter she chatted all the way, but I was none the wiser for all she had to say; I walked a mile with sorrow and not a word said she; but, oh, the things I learned when sorrow walked with me!"
3. C.S. Lewis wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

**11** And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. **12** Now 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.

**14** And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. **15** And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

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