

Theme: Jesus sees the suffering and sorrow of this world very clearly. A woman with no expectations of deliverance from her grief is restored to her son through the great compassion *and* power of Jesus. It is His compassion that brought Him into this world – to “bear our griefs and carry our sorrows” and to restore us to life.

Background and Introduction:

Keep in mind – Jesus recent teaching – the challenging beatitudes.

- His stated purpose in writing – to inform & encourage Theo about the things he has heard. This incident carries with it hundreds of eyewitnesses – many still alive when Luke writes.

I. A Widow’s Grief

A. The crowds collide

1. Jesus followed by a “*great crowd*”
- From Capernaum
2. A crowd with the woman of Nain

B. The customs of the day

1. Same day burial
2. Family in front
3. You don’t interrupt

C. Her depth of grief

1. Already a widow – Now lost her son
2. Trials ahead

The widow’s grief reveals...

II. The Lord’s Comfort

A. Compassion

1. Jesus reaches out
- Understands the situation perfectly. Knows she is *alone*.
2. Interrupts her grieving
- Speaks to comfort her. “Don’t weep.”
3. Interrupts the procession
- Touches the bier (instantly considered unclean)
- Stops the “bearers”
4. Requires nothing from her – or him!! He gives freely!
- Jesus comes –full of compassion (Isaiah 42:3)

II. The Lord's Comfort (cont.)

B. Power

1. His word commands!
 - Jesus speaks with the authority of God
2. He speaks and even the dead obey!

C. Restoration

- "Gave him to his mother"

The compassion and power of Jesus calls forth...

III. The Fear of God Miracle brings forth: 16-17

A. Worship!

1. Holy fear
 - Over-awed by the miracle! True wonder, amazement
2. Praise to Jesus as well.
 - Know that He is Son of God/God the Son? Not yet.
 - Knows that he speaks with authority of God.
 - **He is a "Great Prophet!"** (1 Kings 17:17ff; 2 Kings 4:8:ff)
3. "God has visited his people!"
 - Phrase has very special significance.
 - Specific, infrequent use (Luke 1:68; 7:16; Genesis 21:1; Ex. 4:31)
 - Bringing salvation, deliverance – Real Comfort! and Real Hope!

NOTE: We should be filled with wonder, awe, worship and praise – for God has indeed, visited his people!

B. Witness!!

- the report went through all of Judea and the surrounding country!

IV. Our Comfort and Hope

1. Jesus cares for us in the same way he cared for the widow. (Isaiah 53:4) Jesus doesn't just have *compassion* – He has *power* to bring comfort, peace, hope.
2. His great compassion carried Jesus to the cross.
3. Our comfort is rooted in the cross and the resurrection!
 - He rose – not in resuscitation – but in true resurrection!
4. May God give us the eyes to see those in grief and in courage reach out to them with the comforting love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.