

The Widow at Her Son's Funeral

(Isa 61:1-3; Lk 7:11-15)

- I. **THE WOMAN'S DESOLATION** (12)—a widow, her only son
 - A. **Grief**—deep emotional anguish; intense sorrow, distress or suffering,
 - B. **Fear**—vulnerability of *women, old age*
 1. **Provision in Old Age**—*uncertain of the future*
 2. **Protection as a Woman**—*physical, legal, practical*
 3. **Identity**—*relational; who am I now?*
 - C. **Loneliness**—loss of relationship

- II. **CHRIST'S COMPASSION** (13-15)
 - A. **Empathy** (13; Isa 53:3, 63:9; Lk 2:35; Jn 19:26) *His heart went out to her; God's heart hurts when His children hurt.*
 1. **Our experience of pain equips us to comfort others.** (2 Cor 1:3-4)
 2. **Jesus has experienced sorrow, so He can empathize with ours!**
(Heb 10:17-18)
 - B. **Comfort** (13; Lk 4:17-21)—*he wants to dry our tears*
 1. **Jesus understands tears!** (Heb 5:7)
 2. **Jesus bears our sorrows.** (Isa 53:3-4)
 3. **Jesus heals our hearts.** (Isa 61:1-3)

C. **Touch** (14; Lev 21:1, 10-11; Num 19:11; Lk 10:30-35)—*Incarnation overpowers ceremonial cleanliness*

1. **Human misery matters more to Jesus than His status.** (Lk 10:30-35; Heb 2:11)
2. **He came to take our sin and its punishment upon Himself.** (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 2:9)—the Great Exchange

III. **A GREAT PROPHET** (16)

A. **Compassionate Care for Widows** (Ps 68:5; 1 Kin 17:7-24/ Lk 4:26; 2 Kin 4:1-7)

B. **Miraculous Power to Raise the Dead** (2 Kin 4:8-37; 13:21)

1. **Validation of Jesus' Ministry** (Jn 3:2; 14:11; Act 2:22; 14:3)
2. **Clue to His Identity** (Deut 18:15, 18-19;)—***THE Prophet; listen to Him!***

C. **God's Presence with His People** (16-17; Ps 23:4)—

1. **Inspires Awe**—God is here, doing supernatural things
2. **Produces Praise**—they glorified God
3. **Provides Help**—we are not alone

Heb 2:14-15; Isa 25:8; Rev 21:1-5