

**Luke 7: 11-17; “Christ’s Present to a Mother”, A Mother’s Day Sermon**  
**delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**At Birkwood Assisted Care.**

It must have been a very interesting procession that entered the city of Nain that day. The Lord Jesus was surrounded by His disciples and there was also a large crowd following along with them. They were all wondering what their eyes would behold the Lord Jesus do on that day. We who follow Christ, as His modern day disciples, would do well to ask ourselves that same question: I wonder what the Lord Jesus will do today to show forth His glory, His power, and His love toward fallen, sinful mankind? For He is building His church, and something new is afoot every day.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Let’s think together about how the two groups representing life and death that met each other that day.** (verses 11 and 12)

This particular day, as Jesus drew near the gates of this city, a funeral procession was just going out. Was this coincidence? No, this was no coincidence. Rather it was God’s providence. What appears to be coincidence to us is according to God’s purpose. Life and death are all in His mighty hands. And it was no accident that this mother would meet up with our Lord on that day. Death was marching out of the city and life was marching in. The two large crowds of people met each other and they stopped. The procession of death was intending to go out of the city; and the procession of life had come there to meet them and to greet them with Jesus at their head.

Those following Jesus did not know why they were there. Only Jesus knew what He intended to do at that time. He was going to give to this woman the greatest present she could have asked for; had she had the opportunity to ask Him for it. Her young man was being carried out, and she was crying. He was her only child. And not only had she lost him to death, but she had also lost her husband to death some time before this as well. Jesus knew this all, so very well, and He had determined to minister to her, and to everyone watching that day.

Let’s think about this mother. She had not expected her son to die so young. Her husband, his father, had evidently died a while before this, and this young man had no doubt been a great consolation to his mother in many different ways. I do not know how old he was, but I suspect that he was in his teens or his early twenties. He had probably helped to take care of her in his father’s absence. He had probably helped to provide for her in whatever ways that he could. This was a great comfort to her when her husband had died, but now she had no one. She was desolate.

Death sometimes comes and takes our nearest and dearest relations from us. And O what sorrow death brings. What pain, what loss; and there are many tears. One who is close, one who very dear to us, is removed from us in death. We live in a fallen world, and even with all the advances of modern medicine, still death comes to our loved ones. It even comes to those whom a mother cares the most about in this life; her own husband and her own child. Why is this? Dearly beloved, let us lay the fault where it deserves to be laid. Death comes to all of us, because of sin. There would be no sorrow in the world today, were it not for sin.

It was Adam’s sin in the beginning that brought fear and sorrow with it. It was Adam and Eve’s sin in breaking God’s one good commandment to them in the beginning of the world, that has brought all the sorrow of death along with it that you and I experience today. God had told them not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because in the day that they ate of it, they would die. But Eve was deceived by the serpent and thought that she would become wise if she ate of this fruit. Satan had told her that she would not die, but God had said that she would die. Adam and Eve didn’t really listen to God or hold fast to His word.

God is a good God. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. But, He is also a just Judge. And He knows that He must judge sin, as it is that “abominable thing that He hates”. (Jeremiah 44: 4) It is that terrible thing which robs Him of the glory and praise which are due Him from all of us. Our sin is what deprives us of their true life and fellowship with God. It takes away our

being able to know what is truly good for ourselves. Since the Fall people must not only be taught the difference between good and evil by other men, but we must all be taught by God to be able to see things spiritually in the right way. Only God can do this. We must be born again spiritually. We must be given eyes to see, and ears to hear, and a mind which can comprehend what God has said in His word is true.

Sin brings sorrow, in that most people do not see why they themselves or those whom they love, should have to die at all. They do not see that sin ruins everything excellent that God has given them in their body and in their soul. They do not see the sinfulness of sin. Most people are ignorant of the word of God, and they do not even see the connection between sin and death, even when they are told of it. And when they are told that death is a punishment of God for Adam's disobedience to God's command, they would blame God and His justice, and Adam and his weakness. But they do not see that they themselves would have done the same thing if they had been there in Adam's place.

It is no doubt true that many people do not care for God's plan and purpose in His creating them. That He would have them learn from His word, the Bible, the meaning of life. Sometimes people do not understand God's justice. They do not believe in God's justice as being perfect. If men and women have to suffer as a result of His being faithful to Himself, and His great justice, His knowing at all times what is right and wrong, and His always doing what is right, then they do not think that they care for God. But I want you to see that it was man's disobedience to God which brought sin into the world. And it is why we all experience seeing the death of our loved ones.

Now this young man may have died in an accident which was not his fault at all. Or, he may have had a disease which took his life. He may have come down with an illness like a common cold, which developed into a pneumonia, and he died. It does not say in our text, but we must understand that was it because of Adam's sin that he died. It is because of Adam's sin that all men die. It is sin which brings sorrow, not only to a mother's heart, but also to the hearts of those who sympathize with her loss.

And that is why when a mother is bereaved of her children, many in the community will turn out to sympathize with her loss, even those who do not know God, or who may actually be blaming God for her loss. Still, they know the value of a loving mother, and the value of children, and the value of the intact family. But I want you to see that the greatest gift that a mother can ever receive is the salvation and the help of Christ Himself; for as it says in Romans 6: 20 – “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”

That is the value of this passage. This woman did not go out of the city, mourning that day, unobserved by Christ. He had come to that city, and to that funeral procession, to minister to this very mother, for this very purpose; to demonstrate this truth; that where sin abounds, that grace much more abounds. Grace is God's showing you or your loved ones the favor that you don't deserve. We all deserve to be punished for our sins. But God would show you His mercy and His great compassion, if you will receive it. It is a very great truth that He thinks upon you, each and every day, and in every situation. Especially when you lose someone to death. He is showing you that He is able to raise the dead, and give eternal life.

**Now 2<sup>nd</sup> – I want you to look at the joy that Jesus' compassion brought to her heart.**

Verse 13 says – “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’” “Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still.” “And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’” I like the simplicity of Luke's statements here; especially this one. “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’” I would have each mother in this place to know, and all the rest of us as well, that there is a joy which only Jesus can bring to your heart. Jesus did not just stand there and watch the procession go by that day. He did not just stand there unmoved at this mother's plight. He entered in to her

sorrows and He felt them. Indeed, He knew that in a time not too far off, He would go to the cross so that her sorrows would be taken away forever. Isaiah 53: 4 says, “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.” Jesus knew what He came into the world to do. He came to give us the greatest of presents. Grace. He came to suffer and died to bring us grace, and take away our sorrows and griefs.

To the many mothers who have lost a child or lost a loved one, Jesus is able to minister to you! To those who will receive His ministry and trust in Him, He says, “Do not weep”. “Do not despair!” “I am here!” All things were made through Me, the Son of God. Nothing that was made, was made apart from Me. Jesus was saying this to this woman, even though she did not yet understand what He was going to do. How could He say this? No other person in the world has the right, the authority, or the power to tell you that you should not weep over the loss of a child or a loved one. They do not have the power to take away your grief. They cannot turn off your sorrow with their words.

But Jesus does! He can do this because He alone has power over sin and death. He alone is the Prince of Life. Someday, when He comes back again, He will raise all the dead. And when He appears, He will appear for the greatest good. For those trusting in Him He will wipe away all their tears and bring them into an eternity where there will be no tears. Revelation 21, verse 4 says – “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.” “There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” For those who believe in Jesus, not only death shall pass away, but sorrow and crying shall also pass away.

This is why this mother could not continue to weep when Jesus was present to heal. It is because when you are trusting in Him He has the right to give you the assurance that He is immediately going to do something. This widowed mother responded to Jesus’ words in faith. She was able to give all of her griefs over to Jesus. In all of our lives, we may weep many tears, for dear son or daughter who is spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins. The Lord Jesus does take notice of this. Only He can address the legitimate concerns that you have for their salvation. Only He can take away your fears and dry your tears.

Only He can address the loving concern that you have for their eternal soul. He does think compassionately about what He can do and what He will do. He will act lovingly and wisely in relation to all of your children whom you pray for. He will show compassion. And so keep praying. This dear widow of our text never prayed a prayer, never asked Jesus to come and lay hands on her son so that he would rise from the dead. But Jesus’ compassion in accordance with the will and purpose of God were enough for Him to act. It will be just the same with you, dear mothers who pray. The outcome is all in the hands of God. But I want you to remember the great compassion of Jesus, that He sees all, He knows all, and He does all things well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – We want to look at how Jesus presentation of him to his mother brought astonishment and joy to others who witnessed it.**

Verse 15 says – “He that was dead stood up and began to speak.” “And He presented him to his mother.” “Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us; and God has visited His people.’” This young man, Jesus raised from the dead. Can you imagine how very thankful that he was? To have another opportunity to live and to please God? Another opportunity of years stretched out before him in which to help and serve his mother? I am sure that he made the most of it. He sat up and he began to speak. “I believed and therefore I spoke”, it says in one of the Apostle Paul’s letters.

Jesus helped him down out of the bier, and presented him to his mother. What a very great gift this was; the greatest present that could have been given to the mother who had thought that she had lost her son. If you are a true Christian, will you not speak of it, speak of what Christ has done for you? Will you not tell of what Jesus has done for your soul? If you do, you will be most

happy. When you speak of Christ, it will bring joy and astonishment to the hearts and minds of your hearers. There is little doubt in my mind that this woman had faith in Jesus when He first came up with the crowd following Him. But if she did not have it when He first came up; she certainly did have it by the time that her son was presented to her. Let your heart rejoice if you have met Christ and come to know His power to save. For if you have met Christ, and have come to know His power in your life, you have all things. He has raised you from the dead spiritually, and He has caused you to rejoice in Him. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.