

Luke
See Jesus
Living Hope
Luke 7:11-17

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I. Jesus Sees Us and Feels Deeply for Us

Luke 7:13 “And when the Lord saw her...”

Jesus never pulled back and started seeing humanity in a general and unfocused way.

All through the Gospels you’ll see Jesus stopping in the midst of noisy, crowded streets to notice one person – often someone who’d been marginalized and overrun by the crowd.

In the midst of two noisy crowds that are colliding in the street, the first thing Jesus does is look at this grieving, widowed mother.

Luke 7:13 “And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her...”

The Greek word used for this “compassion” is the word “splanchnizomai,” which means to be affected deeply and moved in a way that causes you to give them your heart. It means to *feel for* them instead of pulling back to preserve, protect, and to save it for yourself.

Jesus didn’t come to just give us advice or give us additional resources and power. He came to give us Himself, which is a much more costly and amazing thing to do. This sets Christianity apart from every other religion.

Religions try to reorient you and tell you what to do, but Jesus comes into your life and says “Let’s do this together. Everything that is Mine is yours now. I am with you and I love you!”

The same Jesus who saw that woman sees you and His heart goes out to you in whatever you’re facing right now. He knows our suffering, remembers our losses, and hears our cry of anguish.

Isaiah 53:3-4 “He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...”

II. Jesus Steps into Our Weakness and Shame

Luke 7:14 “Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still...”

Notice that no one in this funeral procession cries out to Jesus for help or asks Him to do anything. Jesus sees the mother and steps into her sorrow before she ever sees Him or asks for help.

You don't have to see Jesus for Him to see you and you don't always have to cry out to Him for Him to move towards you with mercy and grace. He sees people and has compassion on them long before they respond to Him.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

III. Jesus Conquers Our Greatest Fear – to the Glory of God!

Luke 7:14-15 “...And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ ¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak...”

On more than one occasion, Jesus broke up funeral processions by raising the dead and it always caused the same kind of stir it would cause today!

If you wonder where Jesus is today and why He doesn't bring people back into this life, remember this:

Any current resurrection back into this life simply delays and certainly does not solve the ultimate problem of death and judgment that's coming for each one of us.

What we really want is a resurrection forward—out of this life and into eternal life—where everything sad is going to be undone and everything broken is going to be made new!

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As wonderful as the resurrection story is in Luke 7, it's just a foretaste of the ultimate resurrection that's coming! If you want this resurrection life, you can have it by faith in Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”