

"Christ's Commanding Compassion"

Luke 7:11-17

Leader Notes

- Doxa DNA 04/28 - please encourage those who are not Members to consider attending DNA and pursuing membership
- Pastor Tyler gave a mission update, click [here](#) for a short video (2:50) on Nepal and spend time praying for the protection of churches and leadership who are working in a spiritually hostile context, and for the church building project in Tiniple

Video: "[Compassion and Evangelism](#)" by John MacArthur (2:04)

Learn

1. Read Luke 7:11-17. What stood out to you from the passage and sermon?
2. Contrast the centurion and the widow. What two things do these accounts point to?
 - a. The centurion's servant was deathly ill - the widow's son had already died; the servant was healed with a word from Jesus - the widow's son was raised from the dead with Jesus' word; the faith of the centurion was mentioned - nothing is said about the widow's faith; the centurion requested help - the widow did not request help; the centurion was from a well known place (Capernaum) - the widow was from an obscure place (Nain); both circumstances demonstrate Jesus' divine power.
 - b. These accounts take the Sermon on the Mount commands and show what that type of life looks like on the ground, and they prepare us for the question that is now emerging as the main focus - Who does Jesus think he is? (This miracle sets up an important piece of Jesus' answer to John's question in the next section)
3. How does the story of the widow's son in Luke 7:11-17 demonstrate the compassion and authority of Jesus?
 - a. The story illustrates Jesus' compassion by his response to the widow's suffering, and his authority is displayed in his ability to raise the dead with just a word, revealing his divine power.
 - b. The son being brought back to life by Jesus in a sense brings life back to the mother because without the son's support her livelihood would be in jeopardy
4. What significance does the location of Nain have in the context of this passage, and how does it relate to Jesus' purpose and providence?
 - a. Nain's location emphasizes Jesus' intentional movement towards human need and his sovereignty over circumstances, pointing us to the divine timing and purpose in his actions since he drew near with a large crowd following him, and a dead man was being carried out who was also among another large crowd.

Practice

1. Reflecting on Jesus' compassionate response to the widow, how can we trust in God's sovereignty and providence during times of suffering?
 - a. We can cultivate a deeper trust in God's providence by acknowledging His sovereign control over all circumstances, even during trials and suffering, and by anchoring their hope in His faithful promises.
 - b. Go to Him in prayer by His Spirit and He will visit with you. He may not do what you want but if His presence comes with you there that is what you need most. Once He is in the middle of it all with you, you will be able to come through it. Our God is a God who is alert to the cries of those who mourn and who promises to bring comfort, and ultimately, to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

2. What are the circumstances around you that are opportunities to emulate Christ-like compassion?
 - a. (Especially considering the compassion God has shown to us)
 - b. Christians can seek to embody Christ-like compassion by actively engaging with those who are suffering by taking the initiative to demonstrate compassion and God's love in practical ways

Video: "[Sufferers Need Warning, Not Just Comfort](#)" by Paul Tripp (2:55)

Change

How does the story of the widow's son challenge your perspective on suffering and the role of compassion in your life? Is there something that needs to change?

- Jesus' response to suffering can challenge us to reevaluate our attitudes towards hardship and our commitment to embodying Christ-like compassion when we see others suffering
- When we experience suffering we should consider Christ's authority and command over life and death and examine our level of trust in God's sovereignty and perfect plan during times of suffering - we may know what is most pleasant, but God alone knows what is most profitable