

When Jesus Gets In The Way

Three Sermons from Luke on Mercy, Prayer, and New Life

Title: Life Got In The Way

Date: July 19, 2026

Scripture: Luke 7:11-17

Speaker: Jeremiah Nichols

Main Idea

When Jesus gets in the way, sorrow, death, and empty obligation are interrupted by His compassion, resurrection power, and life-changing gospel.

Sermon in Brief

Luke 7 tells the story of Jesus meeting a funeral procession outside the town of Nain. A widow has lost her only son, and the whole town is mourning. But Jesus sees her, has compassion on her, speaks to her sorrow, touches the bier, and commands the dead young man to arise. The funeral becomes a celebration because Jesus, the Lord of life, has gotten in the way.

Main Points:

1. Jesus Gets in the Way of the Mother's Sorrow: *Jesus sees the widow personally, feels compassion deeply, speaks comfort into grief.*
2. Jesus Gets in the Way of the Son's Grave: *He touches, speaks, and raises the dead to life.*
3. Jesus Gets in the Way of the People's Obligations: *Jesus turns the duty of a funeral into worship and witness and joyful news.*

Key Truths:

- Jesus sees the *person* in the crowd - not merely the situation.
- Jesus has compassion that moves toward the hurting.
- Jesus speaks life where no one else is able.
- New life is visible. When Jesus raises the dead, nothing remains the same.
- Jesus turns "have to" into "get to." True gospel life changes religious obligation to worship, joy, and witness.
- The resurrection gives hope beyond every funeral. One day Jesus will speak and death will be no more.

Key Quotes

"When Jesus gets in the way, nothing stays the same." "The path of finishing well is paved with humble, dependent prayer."

"Life got in the way, and the gospel turns things upside down."

"Luke doesn't say He saw it. Luke doesn't say He saw them. Luke says He saw *her*."

"The eyes of Jesus see you. The heart of Jesus is for you. And the voice of Jesus speaks to you."

"When Jesus gives you new life, your entire life becomes an opportunity to respond in worship."

"The obligations become opportunities. Their have-to's become want-to's."

Reflect & Respond

Where do you need to remember that Jesus sees you personally?

What sorrow, grief, or loneliness do you need to bring honestly before the Lord?

Where has worship, service, or church involvement become mostly obligation?

How can remembering the resurrection of Jesus renew your joy in worship?

Who needs to hear the report of what Jesus has done in your life?

This Week...

This Week look for one place where your Christian life has become a "have to" and ask God to turn it back into a "want to." Then tell one person something specific Jesus has done in your life.

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, thank You for seeing us in our sorrow, speaking life to the dead, and turning mourning into worship. Wake us up by Your Word. Give us new life where we are spiritually cold, and send us to tell others what You have done. Amen.