

The Illustration of Compassion: Luke 7

Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. ¹² Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear gripped them all, and they *began* glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!" ¹⁷ This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.



In this miracle Jesus showed a special authority that he had. What happened? (14b, 15a)

Consider:

- Two crowds met: how were they different?
- Two only sons met: how were they different?
- Two sufferers met: who were they?
- Two enemies met: who were they?

In a self centered culture, how do we learn to be compassionate?

In our last class, we learned that without compassion there will never be grace. Compassion is what fuels grace. And, from grace comes forgiveness. So, without compassion, there will never be forgiveness.

- Ps 103:8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious. Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
- Mt 14:14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and _____ compassion for them and healed them.
- Mt 20:34 _____ with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.
- Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, _____ a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Compassion has been defined as "your pain in my heart." The two aspects of compassion:

- _____ toward another
- _____ taken to help another

A. Background to our story in Luke 7

- (1) this was the Lord's first resurrection
- (2) this section begins with "soon afterwards," reminding us that Luke is writing in a chronological order
- (3) Nain was about 20 miles from Capernaum (7:1), where the chapter began
- (4) Jews buried on the same day of the death

How does Luke describe the plight of this woman?

What initiated this miracle?

What two evidences did Luke reveal that shows the dead man was alive?

