

Greetings from God our Father, from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit Amen.

Luke 7:11-17

“Jesus has compassion for you”

The theme is found in the following verses 13-15: ***And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.***

Jesus followed by a great crowd and the disciples drew near the gate of Nain. As He approached a man was being carried out on a bier. Bier (Encarta Dictionary) *is a wooden frame on which a corpse or a coffin is carried to where it will be buried.* In this case, it was the corpse. Jewish burial in Jesus’ time, the body would be wrapped in linen and a face napkin placed over the face. His mother who was a widow was among the considerable large crowd from the town. Jesus saw her! Among the crowd, He had compassion. This was not just sympathy but the deep down sympathy that comes from the very bottom of Jesus’ heart. It is a personal,

deep felt empathy – her grief became Jesus’ grief. It was not just a general “oh well that is sad.” Many commentaries record Jesus feelings as “seeing her, the Lord had pity for her.” Pity, is the emotion that describes what “The Lord” feels as He looks at man, before they are a child of God and He wants them to be saved.

St. Augustine wrote in His ninety-eighth sermon, *“Let none despair – “The Lord” can raise a soul that is dead in sin to life.”* (St. Augustine, ‘Sermon’ xcvi, quoted by Bishop Wordsworth) This is the compassion that Lord has for you and for all. This is the compassion that causes Him to go to the cross and die for all mankind’s sins. As you hear of this compassion of Jesus, our sinful flesh, no matter how long you have been coming to church, will think, “Jesus takes care of the big stuff but really He does not care about me and my condition or what I am going through. The Lord is too busy to care for me. I would say to your and my sinful flesh, look again at this story with the widow’s son. Or, at the Old Testament story of Elijah praying to “The Lord” to raise up the widow’s son. As you look at it again, the same “Lord” who raised the widow’s son in the Old Testament is the same “Lord” who raised the widow’s son in the New Testament. We can say the same thing for “the Lord” during Elijah’s Time or when the Lord was walking upon this earth – that the Lord was too busy to have compassion

on the widow. But Jesus saw her among the many. As a believer, He has sought you out and has called you by name. He sees you among the many. He knows all about you and what you have done. And He has the same compassion for you as He did for the widow. Jesus comes to you as He does the widow and says today, “do not weep.”

You my dear friends in Christ, Christ has made you a child of God.
..... Jesus has compassion for you and for all.

The Bible speaks of the Lord’s compassion often. For example:

1.) Jesus has compassion for you

He has compassion when the people were hungry in Matt 15:32

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.

2.) Jesus has compassion for you.

For the one who is helpless and beaten up by life’s burdens and your sins, lying in the road of life dying. Jesus is the Good Samaritan that comes by and picks you up. Jesus comes and

picks you up and binds up your wounds. The Good Samaritan in the parable pays the inn keeper for the keep of the man robbed and beaten, half dead. Jesus pays for your sins by the shedding of His blood on the cross for your healing.

3.) Jesus has compassion for you

The one who thinks that the God will not forgive you for that sin.

The sin is heavy on your mind.

In the Prodigal son parable, the Father has compassion when he saw his lost son from a distance. The Father ran to embrace his Son. The Father is God the Father. God has compassion for you to accept you back because what Jesus has done on the cross for you.

4.) Jesus has compassion for you

Jesus out of compassion wants you to give Him your burdens and worries for Him to carry them.

Jesus tells you in Matthew 11:28-30, ***Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***

5.) Jesus has compassion for you

For the ones who have wandered away from the flock. For the ones who are weak in their faith.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Is 40:11)

Jesus comes up to the bier and touches it and the bearers stop. The bearers stood still for they were surprised and waiting to see what Jesus will do next. In the Jewish tradition at that time, no individual would come up and touch the bier, for it would make a person unclean when they touched it. So, Jesus touches it, the bearers stand still. Do you stand still and listen to Jesus' Words? Do you wait for Jesus? Jesus is working in you and among us. Jesus is not afraid to get among us, get down with you in the grime and filth of your sins to touch you even right now He touches you, meets you wherever you are in your life to touch you and take that burden from you Jesus today comforts you and grants you peace by granting you forgiveness of your sins. And Jesus wants you to leave

your worries, burdens or fears with Him. Leave them with Jesus He will carry them for you and take them away – just like He carried and took away your sins on the Cross. Jesus wants to heal you of that burden, whatever that may be for you. *Recall the peace that Jesus spoke to you when you heard the Absolution, the forgiveness of sins. And because Jesus has compassion for you, He once again strengthens your faith and grants you forgiveness of sins by giving you His body and blood and He gives you His peace when you depart from His Supper. He grants all these blessings upon you because of His compassion for you.*

The Lord has deep compassion for you. You look at the cross and see the love and compassion He has for you. He offers what He has done freely and for you to have true peace, comfort and joy – even in the midst of the difficulties of this life. Jesus offers you all these blessings now and forever in heaven.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen