

# JESUS CARES: A Widow's Son is Raised Luke 7:11-16

## *Jesus' Gift to a Weeping Mother*

### Introduction:

**1. It has been said that “tears are words that cannot be spoken.”**

- a. “What happens to our tears? We wipe them away... We assume they evaporate somewhere into the great universe.” (Lowell F Johnson)
- b. But the Bible tells us what happens to the tears of God's children (Psalm 56:8)

*“You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? (Psalm 56:8)*

**2. The Lord cares — He Knows every tear that is shed, and the reason for every tear.**

- a. In our text today, the Lord sees the tears of a mother, and tells her “weep not.”
- b. Then He Gives Her a Gift to Take Away Her Tears—Her son alive from the dead!

## **I. THE SETTING**

### **A. TWO GROUPS... (v.11)**

**1. One group is following Jesus and includes the disciples as well as a crowd**

- a) Jesus had just healed the Centurion's Servant in Capernaum
- b) And now they have followed Jesus to the city called Nain
- c) They have seen Jesus perform miracles and preach with Authority

**2. But There is Another group (v.12)**

- a) A procession of sorrow because of a sad and tragic death of a young man
- b) A Woman suffering a double sorrow for she is a widow and she lost her only son

**3. Each group represents two sets of people...**

- a) Those following Jesus w/ Joy to a City not made w/ human hands, eternal in heavens
- b) And Those Living under the Dark Shadow of Death

### **B. TWO ONLY SONS...**

**1. This young man was the only son of his mother and now he has died**

**2. Jesus is the only begotten son of God, who will also experience death**

- a) as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world

**3. This meeting is not accidental or coincidental**

### **C. CONFRONTATION OF TWO ENEMIES**

**1. The power of death has come face to face with the giver of life (Jn 1:4-5)**

- a) The enemy came to steal and destroy, Jesus came that we may have life (Jn 10:10)
- b) *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 Jn 5:12)*

**2. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Cor 15:26)**

---

## II. THE MIRACLE

---

### A. THE COMPASSION OF JESUS (v.13a)

**‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her...’**

- 1. It was about a days journey from Capernaum to Nain —**
  - a) and Jesus just happens to arrive at the moment of this mother’s crisis
  - b) He could’ve stayed in Capernaum... or went to Galilee... or Jerusalem...
  - c) Do you think that was just accidental? Coincidental?
- 2. Jesus Cares!**
  - a) Death had taken her husband and now death had taken her son
  - b) He Identifies with the sorrows of our heart! He sympathizes with our weaknesses
  - c) He knows every tear we shed and the reason for every tear! **(Psalm 56:8)**

### B. THE ASSURANCE OF JESUS (v.13)

**‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”**

- 1. Jesus is speaking personally to this mother, not to the crowd...**
  - a) When the Lord saw **her**, He had compassion on **her** and said to **her**, “Do not weep.”
- 2. It was not possible at that very moment, for this hurting mother to respond to this command...**
  - a) Even Jesus Wept at the death of His friend Lazarus...
- 3. But the Lord Never Gave a Command—  
—without Supplying the Power to Obey It!**
  - a) And it is still true today...
  - b) We do not sorrow as the world sorrows, who have no hope (1 Thes. 4:13)
  - c) It has been said: **Jesus Broke Up Every Funeral He Ever Attended!** (Coffman)

### C. THE POWER OF JESUS (v.14-15)

- 1. Jesus spoke the word—and the dead are raised!**
  - a) Jesus spoke to this young man—and he rase from the dead
  - b) Jesus spoke to Jarius’ Daughter who was dead—she arose: (Lk 8:54)
  - c) Jesus Spoke to Lazarus in the grave, “Lazarus come forth (Jn 11:43)
- 2. And Jesus will raise ALL the dead with His voice! (Jn 5:28-29)**
  - a) Through His Miracles We See Jesus Power...
  - b) Power Over Disease... Over Nature... Over Demons... and Over Death!
- 3. It’s NOT Hard to Believe Jesus Power when We Recognize Who Jesus is...**
  - a) **(Col 2:9 NIV) For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form**

I read about a Muslim in Africa who became a Christian and some of his friends asked him why. He answered: Well it’s like this, suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in two directions. And you didn’t know which way to go. If you met two men at the fork—one dead and one alive—which one would you ask to show you the way?

---

## III. THE IMPLICATIONS

---

### A. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

#### 1. A World Scarred By Sorrow, Death and Evil—

- a) Where death takes people too young... bad things happen to good people
- b) The World is Broken And Anyone Can See This... We Call it the Problem of Evil

#### 2. But Skeptics Want You to Believe this is an Argument Against God, when in fact it is just the opposite.

- a) If There Was No God—There Would Be No Morality of Right or Wrong...
- b) If There Was No God There Would Only Be Survival of the Fittest...
- c) If there was no God, then, as the militant atheist Richard Dawkins wrote:  
“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference.” (Richard Dawkins, River out of Eden)
- d) Or as Dennis Prager states: “**Nature has only one commandment, not ten, eat or be eaten.**” (Dennis Prager, pointing out the limitations of materialism)

#### 3. So the Atheists Solution To Get Rid of God Does Not Solve the Problem that the World is Broken! It Makes it Worse...

- a) Because This Sad Unbelief Comes at a Cost...
- b) To Believe We Are Here By Accident, with No Meaning or Purpose to Life
- c) To take this belief to its final logical conclusion is to realize that Life is ultimately Empty and Void... and When people believe this then bad things happen

#### 4. D.A. CARSON: “If God took His hands off this fallen world so that there was no restraint on human wickedness, then we would make hell.”

- a) This is the Result of people becoming slaves to their own selfishness.
- b) **QUOTE: “We are broken people living in a broken world with other broken people. We all need grace (Tullian Tchividjian)**
- c) But God Explains to us Why it is Broken...because of the Selfishness of Sin And He Gave Us the Remedy—The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

### B. BUT JESUS CARES

#### 1. But Standing in Contrast to the Sorrow & Suffering of this Broken world...

##### Through the Veil of Tears We See the Compassion of Christ!

- a) Jesus Went to this Woman in Her Crisis of Sorrow and Grief
- b) Jesus wept for Jerusalem
- c) Jesus Wept when His Friend Lazarus Died

#### 2. Jesus Was Moved With Compassion Because He Cares!

- a) GREEK: *σπλαγχνίζομαι* (splanchnizomai) one of the strongest words in Greek L.
- b) It means to be moved to the very depths of one's being
- c) This word is Used Repeatedly of Jesus throughout the gospels...

### 3. Jesus was Moved with Compassion...

- a) When He saw the Multitudes with all their sick people,  
He was moved with Compassion (Mt 14:14)
- b) When He saw the crowds like sheep without a shepherd,  
He was moved with Compassion (Mk 6:34)
- c) When He saw the hungry crowds, far from home,  
He was moved with compassion (Mk 8:2)
- d) This Greek word is not used of anyone else in the gospels,  
except Jesus, it was characteristic of Him!

## C. JESUS SAVES

### 1. Jesus Was Moved with Compassion to Help...

- a) Jesus' Compassion didn't evaporate into a feeling—it moved Him to action
- b) Jesus Wanted to Comfort This Grieving Mother—so He gave her a gift
- c) Jesus gave this mother the gift of her son raised from the dead!

### 2. Jesus Was Moved with Compassion to Help Us!

- a) He Came Down From the Glory of Heaven—to be born in human flesh
- b) Not in a Palace but a manger
- c) Not in a rich family but a poor one
- d) Not to be served but to serve—and Give His life as a ransom for many

### 3. Jesus Humbled Himself to come to earth in the form of a man...

- a) But Not Just as a man—but as a servant
- b) But not just as a servant—but to the point of death
- c) But Not just to the point of death—but a death of crucifixion on a Roman cross

**(Jn 5:24) Just So We Could Be Saved from the Penalty of Sin which is death**

### **ILLUSTRATION: Dr. Daniel Hook was Gospel Preacher in Georgia in the mid-1800's**

And **He was also a Doctor....** In the summer of 1839 a yellow fever epidemic scorched through Augusta, GA. Dr. Hook discovered it and remained in town with the stricken. After successfully treating more than 200 patients, and losing only two, he became ill.

When he found the fever coming on himself, he sat down on the steps he was ascending to see a patient, and wrote out his own treatment,

He directed his driver to give it to Dr. Johnson (who had also adopted his treatment) and tell him to pursue it strictly. He was ill for several weeks, but finally recovered.”

(Biographical Sketch on the Life of Dr. Daniel Hook; [www.therestorationmovement.com](http://www.therestorationmovement.com))

**When Dr. Hook became afflicted with yellow fever, he knew he needed the same treatment as all of his patients who recovered.**

### **We Can See the Spiritual Application As Well...**

—When we sin, we need the same “treatment” Jesus has given to everyone else.

—Jesus has give us the remedy—We need to repent of our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

—For the Christian, this will be done through prayer (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

—For the one who is not yet a Christian, Jesus has given us the instructions to be saved...  
to Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized for the remission of sins (Mk 16:16)

(Plain Bible Teaching)

**—Jesus Saves: His Blood is the only remedy for the Penalty of Sin which is death**

## **D. GOD WILL WIPE AWAY ALL THE TEARS FROM HIS CHILDREN'S EYES**

- 1. Jesus told this woman to stop weeping...**
  - a) Which was impossible for her at that very moment.
  - b) But With God All Things Are Possible
- 2. God Himself Will Wipe Away All the Tears from His Children's eyes**  
**(Revelation 21:4)**

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Death Does Not Have the Last Say—God Does (John 5:28-29)**
- 2. Jesus Has Defeated Death—**  
**and He's gone to prepare a place for God's People!**
  - Where there will be no more sorrow, or pain
  - A Place where all the redeemed of all time are gathered!
  - Where An eternal inheritance is waiting in heaven for you!
  - A Place where we will be forever young!