

Jesus: A Friend of the Hurting
Series: Luke
November 12, 2017 Pastor Bill Bump

We live in a world where everyone experiences hurt and pain. We need to have a message of hope for them.

We need to present Jesus as a friend of those with wounded hearts, as He brings hope and healing to their lives.

Today, we look at Jesus' encounter with a woman who was experiencing deep anguish. Let's learn from this story how Jesus can be a compassionate friend when we hurt.

Luke 7:11-12 ¹¹ *Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. ¹² A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her.*

In the midst of this woman's deep anguish, she met Jesus.

Luke 7:13 *When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said.*

Luke records that Jesus saw her. He was immediately sensitive to this woman's needs and feelings.

Jesus felt compassion. There is no stronger word for sympathy in the Greek language than the one used here to describe Jesus. Jesus knows what it is to hurt.

Isaiah 53:3 *He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.*

Psalms 56:8 *You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.*

Jesus responded to the grieving woman by performing a spectacular miracle.

Luke 7:14 *Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up."*

Orthodox Jews considered a person unclean if they touched a dead body. This is another example of Jesus' willingness to involve Himself with the pain of common people, regardless of religious rules.

This story foreshadows the gift of new life all believers will experience in the future.

John 5:28-29 ²⁸ Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, ²⁹ and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

The young man responded to Jesus' command.

Luke 7:15 Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

This is an example of the reunion that will take place in heaven someday as people are reunited with their loved ones.

The crowd reacted.

Luke 7:16-17 ¹⁶ Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, "A mighty prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people today." ¹⁷ And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

The people had heard about the prophets Elijah and Elisha raising young men from the dead. They knew that only God could raise people from the dead.

Conclusion

Since Jesus promises that He's going to come one day and raise the dead who knew Him, our whole attitude toward sorrow, grief, and pain changes. We maintain our hope through the worst anguish.

Romans 8:18 *Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ *That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.* ¹⁷ *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!* ¹⁸ *So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

The companionship of Jesus alone brings hope and healing when we hurt.