

**RESPOND** (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? (Write out and highlight key words or phrases.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHY** are those scriptures *significant to you at this time in your life?*

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**HOW** can you practically apply what God spoke to you about? (Give specifics/action steps)

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**WHAT** will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Finish Date \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO** I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a plan to spend regular time with God and to listen to His voice—as a lifestyle and for a lifetime? If so, write what that is in the space provided below. If not, begin to establish a plan using the space provided below.

**WHERE** I can meet with the Lord—uninterrupted: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN** I can meet with the Lord daily—uninterrupted: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT** I will read from His Word: \_\_\_\_\_

[If you are just starting to have an Appointment With God, you might consider beginning with the Gospel of JOHN or the book of PSALMS.]

**THE KEYS** to knowing God’s plan & being secure in Him are to recognize & listen to the voice of the Lord. If you would like suggestions or help in learning how to listen to the voice of God and walk with Him:

Men: contact Pastor Larry at [baldridge.larry@gmail.com](mailto:baldridge.larry@gmail.com)

Women: contact Beth Baldridge at [bethbaldridge@gmail.com](mailto:bethbaldridge@gmail.com)

# Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church  
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on November 12, 2017)

## JESUS: A FRIEND OF THE HURTING

### Series: The Gospel of Luke

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.

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 7:11-15** – The widow’s situation was serious. She had lost her husband, and now her only son had died—her last means of support. The crowd of mourners would go home, and she would be left penniless and alone. The widow was probably past the age of child-bearing & would not marry again. Unless a relative came to her aid, her future was bleak. She would be an easy prey for swindlers, and she would likely be reduced to begging for food. In fact, as Luke repeatedly emphasizes, this woman was just the kind of person Jesus had come to help—and help her He did! Jesus has great compassion for your pain, and He has the power to bring hope out of any tragedy.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,204

**READ** Luke 7:11-12 Mark what stands out to you.

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward Jesus went with His disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed Him. <sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 7:12** – Honoring the dead was important in Jewish tradition. A funeral procession, with relatives of the dead person following the body that was wrapped and carried on a kind of stretcher, would make its way through town, and bystanders would be expected to join the procession. In addition, hired mourners would cry aloud and draw attention to the procession. The family’s mourning would continue for thirty days.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,204

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

**READ** 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.

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from Luke 7:11-13. *i.e. Jesus never seemed to be concerned with the crowd or with attempting to create bigger crowds. He was always concerned for the individual and how He could meet their need.*

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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.*  
Psalm 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.

**READ 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 all believers will experience in the future.

**READ the following passages. Mark what stands out to you.**

**John 5:28-29** <sup>28</sup> 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, <sup>29</sup> 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.*

**REFLECT** Write your observations and thoughts from the above two passages. I.E. Jesus is speaking in the John passage and Paul wrote 1 Thess. In both cases, both men are so sure of what they are saying/writing. They use words like: “indeed, and will (repeatedly). Now write your observations and thoughts.-->

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The young man responded to Jesus’ command.

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

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 7:11-17** – This story illustrates salvation. The whole world was dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1), just as the widow’s son was dead. Being dead, we could do nothing to help ourselves—we couldn’t even ask for help. But God had compassion on us, and He sent Jesus to raise us to life with Him (Ephesians 2:4-7). The dead man did not earn his second chance at life, and we cannot earn our new life in Christ. But we can accept God’s gift of life – and use our lives to do His will.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,204

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.

**READ Luke 7:16-17** <sup>16</sup> Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, “*A mighty prophet has risen among us,*” and “*God has visited His people today.*” <sup>17</sup> And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 7:16** – The people thought of Jesus as a prophet because, like the Old Testament prophets, He boldly proclaimed God’s message and sometimes raised the dead. Both Elijah and Elisha raised children from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37). The people were correct in thinking that Jesus was a prophet but He is much more—He was God Himself!

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,204

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from Luke 7:15-17. I.E. Jesus never promoted Himself or what He did. He saw people’s needs and did what He could to help them. That, in itself, caused people to “spread the news about Jesus.”

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The people had heard about the prophets Elijah & 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** **Mark what stands out to you.**

<sup>16</sup> *That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.* <sup>17</sup> *For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them & will last forever!* <sup>18</sup> *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.*

**REFLECT** What does 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 mean to you in practical terms?

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