

Series: Gospel Of Luke

Sunday, February 1. Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at gardiner.church/devotions

1. COMPASSION THAT N.....

(Luke 7:12-13; see also Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 146:9; James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:3; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Cf. also with 2 Kings 4:32-37)

- Jesus sees a widow who has lost both her husband and now her only son. She doesn't cry out for help or ask for a miracle—but Jesus stops anyway. He initiates. The Greek word used here for compassion (*splagchnizomai*) is connected to the bowels or intestines, which ancient people believed to be the seat of deep emotions. This is gut-wrenching compassion that moves Jesus to action. Throughout Scripture, God consistently commands His people to notice and care for the vulnerable—widows, orphans, and the oppressed.
- Compassion begins with paying attention. Jesus doesn't just feel bad—He sees, stops, and engages with those who are hurting. Who are the vulnerable or grieving people around you that God is calling you to truly see this week?

NOTES:

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2. COMPASSION THAT C

(Luke 7:14; see also Numbers 19:11-22)

- By touching the funeral bier, Jesus makes Himself ceremonially unclean according to Jewish law. Only closest family members were expected to accept this level of contamination. Yet Jesus willingly accepts all of this to reach a grieving mother.
- Real compassion gets messy and costs something. It means entering into people's pain, not just observing it from a safe distance. Who needs you to sit with them in their mess, even if it's uncomfortable or inconvenient for you?

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Turn page over for #3

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3. COMPASSION THAT C

(Luke 7:14-16; see also Romans 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; John 11:25)

- Jesus speaks with divine authority and immediately the dead man sits up and begins to talk. Notice the tender phrase: "Jesus gave him back to his mother." This miracle was personal, relational, motivated by love. Yet this miracle points beyond itself to something even greater – this story at Nain is a preview of the victory of Easter Sunday, where death is truly conquered.
- Sometimes Jesus interrupts suffering now with miraculous intervention. Sometimes He walks with us through it with sustaining grace. But He always promises to conquer it ultimately. We don't grieve as those without hope. How does knowing that Jesus has already conquered death through His resurrection give you hope in your current circumstances?

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Application For This Week:

When Jesus shows up, everything changes. He sees us in our pain, enters into our suffering at great cost to Himself, and promises ultimate victory over even death itself. This week, open yourself to receive His deep comfort—and then look for opportunities to extend that same compassion to others around you.

Prayer:

"Father of compassion, thank You that You see us in our grief and struggle. Thank You that Jesus willingly entered into our pain and conquered death itself. Help us this week to truly see those who are hurting around us, to be willing to enter into their mess, and to share the hope we have in Christ. Comfort our hearts and strengthen us in every good work and word. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Verses To Meditate On This Week:

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." – Luke 7:13

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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