

More Like Jesus in Compassion Lk. 7:11-17

Thesis: To encourage us to be more compassionate towards others.

Introduction:

Definition of “compassion:”

Compassion means to “feel sympathy, to pity” (Strong’s).

I. Notice the context of this passage (7:1-12).

A. Jesus has just healed a centurion’s servant (7:1-10).

1. This centurion sent some of the elders of the Jews to Jesus to beg Him to come and heal his servant (7:1-3).
2. These elders tell Jesus that this centurion is worthy of this request (7:4-5).
3. Before Jesus can come to the house, the centurion sent his friends to Jesus saying that their master was not worthy to have Jesus enter his home (7:6-8).
4. When Jesus hears this, He marvels at this man’s faith and heals his servant (7:9-10).

B. Now, the next day, Jesus goes into a city called Nain (7:11-12).

1. Following this event, Jesus goes into the city of Nain (7:11).
 - a. There is a large crowd that surrounds Jesus
 - b. Undoubtedly, they had heard of the things that Jesus had done.
2. As Jesus goes into the city, He sees a man being carried out in a coffin (7:12).
 - a. Jesus recognizes that this man is the only son of a widow.
 - b. He also observed that a large crowd was with her.

II. When Jesus saw this woman, He showed compassion to her (7:13-17).

A. As soon as Jesus saw her, He had compassion on her (7:13).

1. Jesus always had compassion on others.
 - a. Mt. 9:35-36 – Jesus heals the multitudes.
 - b. Mt. 14:13-21 – Jesus feeds about 5,000 men.
 - c. Mt. 15:32-39 – Jesus feeds about 4,000 men.
 - d. Mt. 20:29-34 – Jesus heals two blind men.
 - e. Mk. 1:40-45 – Jesus heals a leper.
 - f. Mk. 9:14-29 – Jesus heals a demon possessed boy.
2. Now He has compassion on this widow who has lost her only son.
 - a. “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her...” (7:13).
 - b. Jesus realized that this widow was in need of His help.
 - c. Jesus was full of compassion.

B. Jesus did something for this woman that she was not able to do for herself (7:14-15).

1. There was no way that this widow could have raised her son from the dead.
 - a. As far as she was concerned, he was gone forever.
 - b. You can only imagine the sorrow that she must have felt as she grieved this tragedy.
2. Jesus helped this woman in a way that she could not help herself (7:14-15).
 - a. Jesus goes to the open coffin and touches it.
 - b. He commands the young man to rise.
 - c. This young man, who was dead, is now alive.

C. Because of the compassion of Christ, His fame went throughout the entire region (7:16-17).

1. There were two things that they said about Him (7:16).
 - a. “A great prophet has risen up among us.”
 - 1) They understood that Jesus was someone great.
 - 2) Deut. 18:15 (Moses speaking to the people) - The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,
 - 3) Deut. 18:18 (Moses telling the people of what God has said) - I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.
 - b. “God has visited His people.”
 - 1) Lk. 1:68 (Zacharias prophesying about the birth of John) - Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people,
 - 2) The people understood that God has provided for and taken care of His people.
2. Everyone knew of the great things that Christ was doing (7:17).
 - a. Because they knew what He was doing, they wanted to be around Him.
 - b. Jesus constantly had large crowds surrounding Him because of the great things that He had done.
 - c. Also, many understood that He was from God because of the things that he did.

Practical Application:

III. We must have compassion on others.

A. In our compassion, we must do things for others that they cannot do for themselves.

1. At times, we will have the opportunity to do things for others that they cannot do themselves.
 - a. We may be able to talk with those who need to talk.
 - b. We may be able to help someone spiritually by being an encouragement to them.
 - c. We may even be able to help someone financially (this does not mean that we allow ourselves to be taken advantage of, but we should have compassion on those that we are able to help).
3. The point is that we need to have compassion on others so that we can help them when they cannot help themselves.

B. Today, when we have compassion on others, they can learn of Christ.

1. Benevolence is always associated with evangelism.
 - a. The early church used it to help spread the word of God.
 - b. **Acts 2:44-45** - Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, {45} and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
 - c. **Acts 4:34-35** - Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, {35} and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.
 - d. **Acts 11:29** - Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.
2. Today, we can use our compassion to help others learn of Christ.
 - a. Someone once said, "*No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.*"
 - b. When we have compassion on others, we will have the opportunity to teach them of Christ.

Conclusion:

Today, we know the compassion of Christ because of His death on the cross.

As Jesus went to the cross, He was doing something for us that we could not do by ourselves.

It is only through Christ that we can be saved.