

Arise

Luke 7:11-17

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A. Desperate (vs. 11-12):

1. Afterwards – Christ made sure He availed Himself to meet this widow. Christ invited Himself once He recognized her pain.
2. Went—This trip was a 10-mile walk. It did not matter what it cost Christ; it mattered more that He served this widow's needs.
 - a) Nain was about ten miles southeast of Nazareth. Rock tombs are near the eastern gate of Nain, along the road to Capernaum. Jesus, approaching from Capernaum, may have met the funeral procession coming out of the city on the way to these tombs.
3. Went - Christ came this one time, so this has to be a visit to Nain with a specified purpose.
4. Disciples – Christ wanted to teach His disciples, leading up to Lazarus, that He is the resurrection.
5. Behold - Christ gave careful attention to meeting the dead man at the city gates. It never said that Christ went inside the city.
 - a) The large crowd of mourners with her heightens the sense of tragedy, but also contributes to the “public staging” of Jesus’ mighty deed (cf. Schürmann, 400).^[1]
6. Approached the city gates – They could have viewed Jesus as late, but He was on time.

7. Being carried out – The dead man was in a coffin being carried by close relatives or close friends of the family.
 - a) The crowd was sizable, emphasizing that many people in this city grieved for her.
 - b) Only those closest to the deceased were expected to expose themselves to this impurity. The young man had not been dead long because it was necessary to wash, anoint, wrap, mourn over, and then bury the body as quickly as possible to avoid the stench of decomposition.
8. Only son of a widow – Her fate was very bleak. She lost a husband and an only son.
 - a) Widows are viewed throughout Scripture as the most vulnerable members of society, those for whom God has a special concern.

B. Compassion (vs. 13-15):

1. Saw – Jesus completely understood everything that was taking place without asking for information. In other words, His divine knowledge empowered Him to know all about this woman; she was a widow who had lost her only son. No one needed to tell Christ this. Christ knows and feels everything we are going through. Our pain attracts Christ to us (He hears the groans of our heart (Romans 8:26); remember, our sin placed Him on Calvary.
2. Saw - Christ had a complete understanding of everything based on divine truths.
 - a) According to custom, the bereaved mother would walk before the bier so Jesus would meet her first.

3. Felt compassion- Christ was emotionally moved from the inside out.
4. Felt compassion – Seeing her also means He felt her pain, which was felt in His heart. (Hebrews 4:14-16).
5. Do not Weep – Jesus commanded the widow to stop wailing and lamenting very loudly. Faith is always demanded, which is demonstrated by works (James 2:14-26).

a) Weep not. Loud wailing was conventional at Eastern funerals; in fact, mourners were often hired to supply it. The command to stop weeping, spoken by an utter stranger, may have seemed rude.

b) “Do not weep” – Jesus speaks to her as if He is seeking to tell her it will be okay.

6. Came up – Jesus drew purposefully closer to create spiritual and emotional impact.

a) Interrupting a funeral was a blatant breach of Jewish law and custom; touching the bier exposed Jesus to a day’s uncleanness (Num 19:21–22); touching the corpse exposed him to a week’s uncleanness (cf. Num 5:2–3; 19:11–20). But in Jesus’ case, the influence goes in the other direction.

7. Came up—Christ moved closer to the coffin when He did not need to. He drew close, highlighting His compassion for her pain. Christ never even went to the house of the Centurion, so He did not need to come closer to raise the boy to life. The same was true for Lazarus; he stood outside the tomb.

8. Touch – Christ touched the coffin because He intended to change the man’s condition. Refers to handling an object in such a manner as to exert a modifying influence on his physical and spiritual condition.
 - a) Jesus did not just touch the man and raise him back to life; He gave the man back to his mother. In other words, “I did not do this for me; I did this for you.”
9. Stood – The bearers obeyed Jesus and stood still. Our pain becomes His pain, but our faith either strengthens us to deal with the pain or transforms the circumstances we are experiencing.
10. Say arise – Jesus kept saying to the dead man he must get up from the coffin and experience a new life.
 - a) Jesus raises from the dead the son of a widow, thereby manifesting the kind of powers similar to those of Elijah and Elisha (1 Ki. 17:17–24; 2 Ki. 4:18–37) which led the people to conclude that he was a prophet and that through his activity God was visiting his people; at the same time the stress on the helplessness of the widow, deprived of the support of both her husband and her son, draws attention to the gracious compassion of Jesus in caring for those in distress.^[2]
11. Say arise – Christ did not need any help from anyone to provide life because He is life.

C. There is Hope (vs. 16-17):

1. The dead man sat up – By continuously talking, the dead man demonstrated that He was alive and well.

2. Fear—Everyone immediately reveres Jesus because they sense the presence of God with Him. In Jewish history, the only other person who did this is Elijah, a man they revered. There was such an obvious presence of God that these individuals immediately knew what this meant.
3. Fear—When Jesus demonstrated the power of God, it caused the people to revere God even though Christ was before them.
4. Fear – Jesus turned their pain into a great time of worship (Hebrews 12:28-29). In the midst of a spiritually dead time in Israel’s history, Christ gave them hope that God still cares.
5. Grippéd – Their reverent fear totally moved them from the grief they once felt to complete reverence for God.
6. Glorified – Everyone was so thankful that they all began to praise God for the revelation of His goodness and power (2 Corinthians 4:7-12).
7. Glorified – Jesus magnified the nature and power of God.
8. Saying, a great prophet has risen – The people were continuously saying that Christ was like the great prophets who once lived; again, they are repeatedly saying this as if they are now in the midst of a worship service.
9. Visited us – The people celebrated God and Christ.
10. The report of Him – Jesus brought new life and hope to all Judea and the surrounding districts.
11. The report of Him – God is always at work! Love draws Him; faith keeps our hope alive.

12. When we place our hope and faith in Him, He will turn our tears into hope, our sadness into joy, and give us a fresh start.

^[1] Nolland, J. (2002). *Luke 1:1–9:20* (Vol. 35A, p. 322). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.

^[2] Marshall, I. H. (1978). *The Gospel of Luke: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 283). Exeter: Paternoster Press.