



Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

Week 15: Jesus Raises a Young Man

The Text: Luke 7:11-17

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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. (Luke 7:11–17 NLT-SE)



A **bier** was a stand on which a corpse, coffin, or casket containing a corpse, is placed to lie in state or to be carried to the grave.

Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

We are in the middle of series we started back in Spring of 2017 which appears in Luke 4:14 thru 9:50. Jesus is traveling through the region of Galilee. The question we are asking is..."If you and I had been with Jesus and the disciples during this portion of his ministry, what would we have **seen** and **heard**? More importantly, **what would we have learned from watching Jesus minister to the people of that region?**"

What is Compassion?

- Do you **care** about people? How do you know?
 - **Sympathy vs. Empathy**
 - **Sympathy**...is when you share the feelings of another
 - **Empathy**...is when you understand the feelings of another but do not necessarily share them.
 - **A major difference between sympathy and empathy** is how long each has been around. Compared to sympathy, which first appeared in English in the 16th century, empathy is a relatively new coinage, one originating from a relatively young science: psychology.
 - By **empathy**, one organism is aware at once that another organism is aware of an object. An animal reacting to his reaction would come under this definition. Yet altogether the definition marks off a class of mental events that are normally human, and it serves for the human being to differentiate the conscious from the unconscious.

~ Edwin G. Boring, The Psychological Review, Vol. 44, No. 6, November 1937

- **“How to be a more caring person”**
 - Be sensitive to the feelings of others
 - Think about how your actions effect other people
 - Pick your battles
 - Appreciate the people in your life
 - Push away feelings of selfishness
 - Pay attention!
- All this is true. If you do these things, you probably *will* become a more caring person. The problem is, **being a caring person is not necessarily the same as being a compassionate person.**
- **The dictionary says compassion is:** “A deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.”
 - “Compassion is **action**. Compassion **moves**. It doesn’t stand still. It doesn’t ignore the problem. And it surely doesn’t turn away when someone is in need.” Kris Belfills

Compassion in the Bible

- **Old Testament examples of compassion**
 - **God announces his desire to be compassionate...** The Lord replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and **I will show compassion** to anyone I choose. (Ex 33:19 NLT-SE)
 - **David cries out for compassion...** Have **mercy on me**, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. (Psa 51:1 NLT-SE)
 - **God’s compassion for all mankind...** The Lord is good to everyone. He **showers compassion** on all his creation. (Psa 145:9 NLT-SE)
- **Compassion in the New Testament**
 - **The Compassionate Shepherd**
 - **Responding to the human condition...** ³⁵ Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ **When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them** because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matt 9:35–36 NLT-SE)
 - **The crowds pushing in...** ¹³ As soon as Jesus heard the news (of John the Baptist’s death), he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and **he had compassion on them** and healed their sick. (Matt 14:13–14 NLT-SE)
 - **A heart for the broken...** **Moved with compassion**, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” (Mark 1:41 NLT-SE)
 - **The compassion of a stranger...** ³³ “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵

The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' (Luke 10:33–35 NLT-SE)

- **Withholding compassion...** If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? (1 John 3:17 NLT-SE)

- **The Faithful Father**

- So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. **Filled with love and compassion**, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 NLT-SE)
 - The heading for this portion of Scripture typically says, "The Prodigal Son." Granted, the son did prematurely take his inheritance and squander it. He was essentially saying, "I'm not waiting for you to die. I want my inheritance now!"
 - The father represents God and the son represents all sinful mankind who doesn't deserve the Father's mercy, yet is on the receiving end of..."while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him."
 - In that time and in that culture, the father would not have expected his rebellious and disobedient son to return, let alone run to greet him, bless him, and throw a party for him. This is one of the clearest and powerful examples of compassion in the Bible.

- **The Power of New Life in Jesus**

- **We were all raised from the dead...** ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that **even though we were dead** because of our sins, **he gave us life** when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) (Eph 2:4–5 NLT-SE)

Learning the Power of a Compassionate Heart

- 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. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said.
 - The village of **Nain**...An obscure city, mentioned nowhere else in the Bible, that is 20 miles from Capernaum and 6 miles from Nazareth.
 - This was a poor, illiterate, suffering woman from an unimportant city in the middle of nowhere and Jesus found her.
 - She had buried her husband and was now in the process of burying her only son.
 - She didn't come looking for Jesus, he came to her and responded to her need out of compassion.
- ¹⁴ Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." ¹⁵ Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.
 - The "coffin" referred to here is called a **bier**. It is a stand that people used to carry the dead body on their shoulders to the burial site.

COMPASSION

"A deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it."

- Jesus came to up to the bier and touched it. This would have been a huge error in that he would be considered **“unclean”** for trucking the dead.
- He didn’t pray, but simply said to the boy, **“Get up”** and the dead boy sat up and began speaking to Jesus.
- This was not a resurrection, but a **“revivification.”** There are three instances when Jesus performed this type of miracle in the Bible: His friend, Lazarus, Jairus’s daughter, and the widow’s son.
- Jesus helped the boy off the bier and brought him, **alive**, to his once distraught, now delighted mother.
- 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 **impact of this miracle** upon the crowd was overwhelming:
 - The **response** of the people was to worship God for what they had seen him do.
 - The **result** of the was regional evangelism.
 - If you had been there that day, watched Jesus approach the procession carrying the dead boy, speak to him briefly and watch him sit up and talk, **what would you have learned?**
 - **Tender-hearted mercy...** Jesus was not afraid of letting his heart be touched by people, even those who had suffered tremendous loss. He not only had the willingness feel what people were going through, but the desire to relieve their suffering. If we are willing, we can do the same.
 - **Death-defying faith...** He was not intimidated by death. In fact, his giving life back to the young boy was a foretaste of his own future resurrection. For followers of Jesus, death is not the end of the road, but in many ways just the beginning. There is no room for fear in the plans of God. Death has been overcome!