

Jesus & You, Jesus and the widow of Nain:

Compassion

08/23/2020 Sermon

1. Read Luke 7:11-13

a. Jesus is “Mr. Compassion”. He felt compassion for this widow, “his heart went out to her”. When you see others in need around you, does that evoke compassion in you or is there ambivalence?

b. In our own strength we are limited in how many we let our heart go out to. But are you praying to stretch the capacity of your heart to feel deeply with many others?

c. In Hosea 11:8-9 it says that in God’s heart “compassion is stirred/aroused”, How does that make you feel knowing that God gets overcome with compassion for us?

2. Read Luke 7:14-15

a. Jesus is “Mr. Clean”. According to Numbers 19, touching a corpse should have made Jesus “unclean”, but he didn’t shy away; instead his cleanness would transfer to others (demoniac, woman with the issue of bleeding, lepers, etc). When you think of the fact that God sent his Son to be the cleansing agent of the world, does that make you want to draw closer to Jesus?

b. There are times when I’ve noticed my own heart harden when I knew I should be feeling deeply for another person. I’ve had to stop and ask myself (and let others ask me), “Are you afraid of hurting? Is your lack of openness (rooted in fear of the sin of pride) blocking your passion and compassion?” How do you respond to these same questions?

c. 1 John 1:5-10 says that Jesus’s blood cleanses us, but we have to walk in the light and be open about our sin. When was the last time you were open about your struggles with God? With another disciple? Who are you praying for or praying with about our battles with sin?

3. Read Luke 7:16-17

a. Jesus is “(Mr.) Christ”. He is a prophet of the Lord, and “God with us”. AS you remember the Lord, be grateful that we have a God that wants to be WITH us. He sees our needs and acts (often times even before we ask or in the absence of faith). Jesus didn’t heal her son because she had asked and the text doesn’t mention that he did it because of her faith. There are times when God, in Christ, just shows us care and compassion because that is who HE is.

b. Read 1 Kings 17:8-24. What parallels do you see between this story in 1 Kings and the story in Luke?