

Luke 7:11-17 *Compassionate*

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Luke 15:11-32, The Widow of Nain and Her Son

◆ What does this story say about the compassion of God?

2→ What pointers are there to us in showing Jesus' compassion?

When you are confronted with human suffering, grief, pain, need, you have a choice: you can walk away, hiding behind social, pragmatic, or even religious excuses; or you can emulate Jesus and reach out in compassion to others in his name.

Philippians 2:1-3 1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

③→ Verses one through three build on each other. This is all addressed to us. It appears this is a vital mission. Discuss through verse 1, verse 2 and then verse 3 in how this shapes who we are in this world.

Matthew 9:35-38 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

4→ What does say about our mission of compassion? Why and how are compassion and harvest connected?

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5→ What if Jesus hadn't raised this young man from the dead, how would this story read? Where's Jesus' compassion then?