

What burdens are you carrying that you feel no one else fully understands?
How does it change your perspective to know that Christ sees you completely?
Why is it important that Jesus' compassion is joined to His authority?

Day 4: His Word Precedes His Work (Luke 7:13-15)

Jesus says, "Do not weep." Jesus is not rebuking her grief, but declaring something greater than her grief has entered the picture. He speaks a word of hope before He visibly changes anything. And that is often the Lord's way: His word precedes His work.

The same pattern often unfolds in the Christian life. Christ speaks. He makes promises before giving explanations. He calls us to trust Him before we see the outcome.

When was a time God asked you to trust Him before you understood what He was doing?
Why is it difficult to believe God's Word when our circumstances remain unchanged?

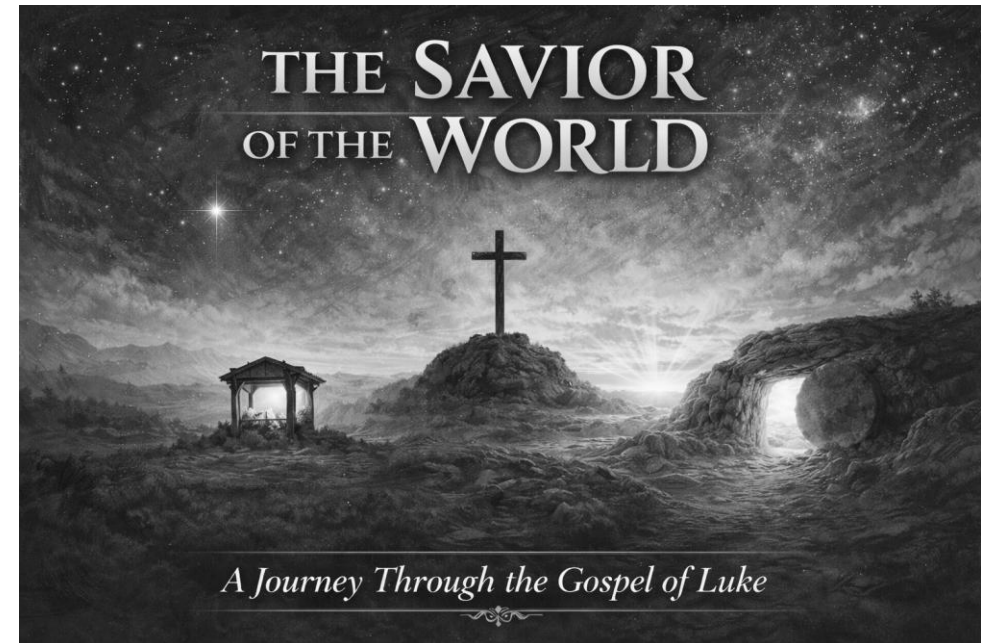
Day 5: Come and Go (Luke 7:16-17)

The story ends with worship and witness. The crowd glorifies God, and the report about Jesus spreads throughout the region. The crowd that began by following Jesus becomes a crowd speaking about Jesus. Here we see the call to come and to go.

First, we come to Christ in our need. Just like the widow, because of sin and death we are far more helpless than we realize. But the Lord Jesus still meets sinners in their need. You can come to Him with your every need.

Then, we are to go and speak of Christ to others. As He works in our lives, we are not meant to keep Him to ourselves. His transforming work in us moves us to offer testimony to the grace, greatness, and compassion of Christ.

What does it look like for you to "come to Christ" with your present burdens?
How has Christ met you in your need?
Who in your life needs to hear about the compassionate authority of Jesus?



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:
The Compassion of Jesus
Luke 7:11-17

SERMON NOTES

A Crowd Following Jesus (v. 11)

Jesus is not wandering aimlessly; He is moving toward a divine appointment. And the crowd following Him has a rather limited understanding of who He is.

Before the widow ever sees Jesus, He is already moving toward her sorrow. Christ's compassion does not begin when we become aware of Him. He is often at work long before we recognize His hand.

A Crowd Following Death (v. 12)

This widow's tragedy exposes the helplessness of the human condition. Sin has left us spiritually impoverished and unable to rescue ourselves.

Death is humanity's great enemy, and no amount of determination or human effort can overcome it. Human compassion is real and precious—but limited. It can walk with us to the grave, but it cannot conquer death.

The Compassionate Interruption (vvs. 13-15)

Jesus is not merely a teacher or a prophet. He is the Lord Himself, who sees all things. And as He sees this widow, the compassion He has is not a passing sympathy or polite concern. It is the deep movement of a heart fully engaged with another's suffering.

By saying, "Do not weep," Jesus is not rebuking her grief, but declaring that something greater than grief has entered that moment. As Jesus touches the bier and speaks with authority, the dead obey. His holiness is not defiled by death; His holiness overwhelms death itself.

A Crowd Worshipping God (v. 16)

Though the miracle takes only a moment, its impact is only the beginning. The crowd, not fully understanding all they've seen, responds with reverent awe and glorifies God.

A Crowd Bearing Witness (v. 17)

The story does not end at the city gate. The report of Jesus spreads. The crowd that began by following Jesus becomes a crowd speaking about Jesus.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Day 1: The Lord Is Already on the Way (Luke 7:11)

Before the widow ever sees Jesus, He is already moving toward her sorrow. His compassion for this widow does not begin at the city gate. He is already on the road toward her long before she recognizes His presence.

The same is often true in our lives. We do not always recognize the Lord's hand in the moment. Sometimes His providence feels hidden, His timing confusing, and His purposes unclear. Yet Luke 7 reminds us that Christ is not absent from the ordinary rhythms of life or from its deepest sorrows. He is often at work long before we perceive Him.

Where do you struggle to trust that Christ is already at work?

How does this passage challenge the way you think about God's providence?

Day 2: When Comfort Is Not Enough (Luke 7:12-13)

At the center of the funeral procession is a widow whose only son has died. Her grief over her husband, and now her son, is immense. The sorrow is obvious, but the passage also points to something deeper: her helplessness.

The people around her care for her. But their compassion has limits. They can accompany her to the grave, but they cannot bring her son back from it. And like her, every one of us comes to the place where we need more than sympathy. We need a Savior.

When have you experienced the kindness of others in a season of grief or hardship?

Why is it important to recognize both the value and the limits of human comfort?

Day 3: The Lord Who Sees and Has Compassion (Luke 7:13)

Jesus does not merely notice a funeral procession—He sees a grieving widow, facing an empty and uncertain future. And Luke says that when He saw her, He had compassion on her. She became the recipient of His redeeming grace.

The compassion of Jesus is not a shallow sentiment, but the full engagement of His heart with our suffering. Even more, His compassion is expressive of His perfect power.