



Sermon, Sunday January 22, 2023

“Don’t cry. And get up from the dead.”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 ¹¹ Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹² As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow, and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he was moved with compassion for her and said to her, “Do not cry.” ¹⁴ Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stopped. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized all of them, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” ¹⁷ This word about him spread throughout the whole of Judea and all the surrounding region.

Introduction: Jesus Raised the Son of the Widow of Nain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

I have a question for you regarding my sermon today. Do you know how many people Jesus raised from the dead during his public ministry? The answer to this question is 3. Jesus raised three persons from the dead.

First in today’s text, Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain. He also raised Jairus’ daughter (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56) and Lazarus (John 11:1-44) from the dead. The writer of the Gospels tries to testify to us through these events to show that Jesus Christ has the power of resurrection and eternal life.

Many people today suffer from diseases and accidents such as depression, heart disease, cancer, and car accidents. It is difficult when such hardships come into our lives, and we do not know why. So, we who are weak need a true comforter. But who can give us true comfort in our lives? Is your family your comforter? Or does a friend, brother, sister, dog, cat, or anything else comfort you? However, these things are not permanent. **So King Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 4:1-2: “Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed-- and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors-- and they have no comforter. (v.1) And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. (v.2)”**

What, then, is eternal and can give us true comfort? It is Jesus Christ.

In today’s text, Jesus tells the widow, during the pain of the death of her child, **‘Don’t cry’**. Also, the dead young man lying in the coffin is commanded to **‘Get up’**. Like this, today’s text is a testimony about Jesus who is our comforter and true hope. May the grace and peace of Christ, who comforts us through today’s message and leads us to eternal life, be with you.

Body: Don’t cry. And get up from the Dead.

Nain, the background of today’s story, is a city on the plains of Jezreel, about 24 miles (40 km) southwest of Capernaum, which was the center of Jesus’ public ministry, and about 9 miles (15 km) southeast of Nazareth, located on the southern border of Galilee.

After Jesus healed the faithful centurion’s servant in Capernaum, he went to Nain. However, in the Bible, there is no specific story about why Jesus visited the city of Nain, which is far from the Sea of Galilee.



By the way, an interesting fact is that Nain means **'pleasant'**. But Today's incident in Nain is a sad story that is the exact opposite of the name of the town called **'pleasant'**. This paradox shows us that humans always seek happiness in life, but the reality we face is often filled with pain and despair rather than joy. It is to show the existence of a fragile human being.

According to today's text, there is a widow living in the town of Nain that Jesus visited. This widow had a son, and the son died. We must think about what kind of situation the widow of Nain is experiencing in today's passage.

Widows were one of the most marginalized groups of society in ancient Israel because they had no economic foundation. However, the reality of the Widow of Nain is that even the son she depended on died. So, the pain that the widow of Nain experienced is an extreme pain that cannot be counted with our thoughts. By the way, Jesus came to the woman during such grief and raised her son from the dead. This is the story of today's text.

As today's text describes, the Lord showed deep concern for the situation and suffering of the widow of Nain. The Lord had sympathy for the widow of Nain. The Lord comforted the widow of Nain, saying, **"Don't cry."** The fact that the Lord said to the widow of Nain, **"Don't cry"** clearly shows that the Lord is the one who can solve our fundamental problems. This consolation of the Lord is on a different level from the empathetic consolation we feel for those in need.

We must remember the words of Apostle Paul, who confessed to the Lord who gives us true comfort. **The apostle Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."**

Like the apostle Paul's confession in the verse above, the Lord becomes a true comforter and actively intervenes in our lives. By the way, the widow of Nain in today's text does not see the common look shown in the existing gospels of those who met Jesus and asked for help.

Generally, people who received healing through an encounter with Jesus either prayed to Jesus for their needs or were healed through strong faith in Jesus. However, the widow of Nain did not appear to have faith in him.

That's why today's story of how the Lord saved the son of the widow of Nain has more meaning. It is because it is an incident that shows us more clearly what the grace of the Lord is. The Lord loves us so much that even if we do not seek Him, He finds us and heals us.

According to today's text, after the Lord said to the widow of Nain, "Do not weep", He approached and touched the bier where the widow's son was lying. (Luke 7:14). This action of Jesus was against the Jewish law. **Numbers 19:13 says, "Whoever touches the dead body of anyone and fails to purify himself defiles the LORD's tabernacle. That person must be cut off from Israel. Because the water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on him, he is unclean; his uncleanness remains on him."** However, Jesus does not hesitate to touch the bier. And he says, **"Young man, I say to you, get up."** This is the Lord's active love towards us. The Lord is the one who does not hesitate to become an unclean person by touching unclean things to save us.

The Lord said in **Gospel of John 5:21, "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it."**

In today's text, the Lord returned the young man who was alive to his mother. Imagine the joy of the widow of Nain. The Lord gave amazing joy to those who were in sorrow and despair. Those who witnessed the resurrection of the son of the widow of Nain confess, **"A great prophet has risen among us! and God has looked favorably on his people."** (Luke 7:16) Like this verse, the Lord is the one who takes care of us without turning away from us during suffering.



Conclusion: Only the Lord is the true comforter of our lives.

Now let's summarize today's message. Dear brothers and sisters! Humans can reach their limits in life. How do you deal with unbearable sadness and pain? You can never solve the problem any other way. Only Jesus Christ is the fundamental solution to all problems. The only way we can receive true comfort is in the Lord.

As we look at the story of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain, we should not only see the power of Jesus raising the dead. Instead, we must decide on faith to accept the Lord as the savior of our lives, who came to us and gave us amazing grace without turning away from our pain.

The Lord shows us who the savior is today through the story of saving the son of the widow of Nain. He is our true comforter, full of love, who does not turn away from our pain, who comes to us even if we do not seek him and does not hesitate to deny himself to save us. I hope that all of us can personally meet the Lord in our lives.

