

## Jesus Sees, and Jesus Cares

- I know: tough way start sermon. But there are some times in life when trags don't just come; come one after another. Something bad happens, foll by else bad, foll by else! Compounded tragedies. I've seen it: you're perf healthy adult; then stroke; so body doesn't function way used to; so need constant care; so can't work; so can't pay bills; so have move out home. Or: relentless health probs; so pharm of meds; some make health even worse; so go from active person to being homebound. Or: get married, excited to become mom; but can't preg; when finally do, miscarriage; so bear that pain. Or: lose job; so income's gone; so marriage strained out, which eventually leads divorce. Or: parent dies, ~same time child, ~spouse. See what saying: comp trags, one after another. And when it happens, just about can't help but say: "God, really? Seriously, this too? I know when rains, pours. But, come on; you going kick me when down? Don't you see what going through; even care?"
- Today we meet woman with comp trags; I'm sure she felt same way. **Vs. 11a, 12ab**. She's already lost husband; already walked that funeral procsn to cemetery once before. But now has to do again, this time for son, only son. Maybe she & husband hard time getting preg; maybe when finally conceived, this only child. Maybe had little family business together, 3 them. Maybe had modest income, comf lifestyle there in Nain. That's all gone now! Husband/son gone; business gone; income gone; comf lifestyle gone. Townspeople see what she's going through; they seem care; **vs. 12c**. But in heart, she wonders: "God, you see what I'm going through; do you even care?"
- Then along comes J. He's walking from Capernaum, where just healed Cent's servant. He meets funeral proc at town gate – I'm sure not by coincdnc. And there at town gate, what I think is most imp part this story takes place: J sees/cares. **Vs. 13ab**. 1<sup>st</sup>, sees. She may felt invis to God; but not invis to J. Sees her, sees through her, sees into her heart. Sees crushing emptiness of her two fav people ripped away from her by death; sees bleak outlook of her childless widowhood. He sees her pain/sorrow. J sees; and J cares. **Vs. 13b**. His heart hurt with her. Gk word here means J's stomach turning; sick with sorrow over pain he sees in this woman. Remember: J her creator; she his daughter. His daughter hurting. Just think how you feel when your child hurting. J's stomach turning over in pain for his daughter suffering like this. J sees/cares.
- **Vs. 13**, which doesn't mean wrong be sad or sinful cry. J cried when Laz died. But when says "Don't cry," means don't despair, give up hope, stop trusting Lord, turn back on him. And that of course is tempt, isn't it, when trags compound in our lives – to turn away from only one who can heal us, bec we feel like he doesn't care. "Where are you God? Why aren't helping me? When will you come to my relief? Do you even care about me anymore?"
- That's how woman felt, until this happened. **Vs. 14** (bier=stretcher) – which sounds lot like what said Jairus' daughter (little girl...get up), and to Laz (come out) – **vs. 14c**, and **vs. 15**. J sees/cares.
- Res of widow's son at Nain (as with Laz & Jairus' daughter) teaches us very imp lesson re death & life. J has the power over death; he defeated death when came back life on East Sun AM. And he says "**Bec I live, you also will live**" (**Jn 14:19**). So someday, J will touch our coffin, say "Young man, little girl, I say to you, get up; come out grave." And he'll raise us to live, restore our bodies, make us perfect; and we'll live with J, body/soul, in heaven forever. This res in Nain tied to J's res on East, which tied to our res on Last Day. So we will not stay dead; we will rise; J will bring us back life.
- But something else here in Nain we should not overlook. It's not just J's power; it's his compassion. **Vs. 13ab**. J sees/cares. When trags comp in your life; when you feel overwhelmed, bec something bad happens, followed by else bad, foll by else; and you're thinking, "Man, when rains, pours;" and you feel like God's just kicking you when down – remem: J sees/cares. Sees your troubles; you're not invisibl to him; knows what going through and loves you. And he cares, even when (really imp!) doesn't intervene. Here J intervenes: raises son, fixes problem. But J doesn't always intervene. Many you buried your spouse, or children; many you dealing with comp trags, and you're living with that

pain. And J doesn't swoop in, raise your dead, fix your problems – which could lead you say: “Great for this widow; good for her; but what about me; what about my struggles?”

- And I don't have the answer. Don't know why: cancer touched your fam, spouse died, never healthy, had miscarriage, lost job, husband left you. Don't know why God allowed this come into your life, or what his plans are for you, or how he'll use this for your eternal good. I don't always know why God does what he does. But I do know that God knows what like to lose a son. And I do know: by faith in Xp, you are son/daught of God; so when you hurt, he hurts; and when you suffer, he suffers. He's not some detached deity, sitting at desk in heaven, unaware what's happening below, to you, in your life. No, J's heart goes out to you. J sees/cares.
- Cares re your life, eternal life, so much that faced death for you. Went to cross with you on his heart. His stomach turned at thought of losing you to eternal death, and his heart aches at devastating effects sin has on this world, like the comp trags that invade your life. And so he faced death on cross for you, bec loves you. Whatever you're going through right now, whatever trags are compding in your life right now, J's heart goes out to you; he has compassion for you. J sees/cares.
- When people of Nain saw J's compassion, **vs. 16**. And they're right, aren't they?! J came to help us. His sinless life, death cross, res dead helps us; saves us. Bec of J, we have home in heaven waiting for us, where sorrow can't touch us, and death can't reach us. Yes, **vs. 16c**.
- You know, life isn't always heartache & pain. God does bless us with happy times & earthly joy; and maybe right now you're experiencing that blessing of joy from J. But if you're not; if feeling overwhelmed with heartache, if starting despair, starting lose hope, starting lose faith bec trags compding in your life; it's not just raining, pouring; and it feels like God kicking you when down – remem this: **vs. 13**. Don't despair. J with you, loves you. He knows what going through. J sees/cares.

### **Luke 7:11-17**

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don't cry.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. <sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.