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Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

Luke 7:14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

Luke 7:15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Luke 7:16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

Luke 7:17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Luke 7:15 And the **dead** man **sat up** and began to **speak**, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Psalms 115:17 The **dead do not praise the LORD**, nor do any who go down into silence.

Speaking (praising the Lord, testifying) is a sign of life. A dead person cannot speak. As soon as Jesus spoke to the young man, the young man sat up and began to testify.

Does the Lord speak to us? In order to testify or speak for the Lord, the Lord must speak to us. Otherwise, we will have nothing to say. Whether we are living or dead depends on whether we listen to the Lord's speaking.

The young man did not just begin to speak, but he first sat up. To sit up is to gird ourselves, to be diligent and ready. To listen to the Lord's speaking and to testify requires us to pursue His word. If we think that we can receive the Lord's speaking simply by attending a meeting one hour a week, we may still be lying down. We may hear many words, even words spoken by the servants of God, but do we sit up to pay attention? When the Lord speaks to us, do we sit up to let that word remain in us, to consider it, and then to respond to it?

Luke 7:12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, **the only son of his mother**, and she was a **widow**, and a **considerable crowd** from the town was with her.

The “only son of his mother” and a “widow” convey a sense of hopelessness. The only heir had died, and there was no possibility of raising up another heir because the mother was a widow. There was no continuation. Even though there was a crowd of people to support and console her, they could give her no hope either.

The second generation is the continuation of the church. If we do not pay attention to our children, they may die (spiritually). We will have no children. This may cause the church to enter a state of poverty and hopelessness. Outwardly, there may still be many people in the church life surrounding us (a considerable crowd with us). We may even enjoy a good, social church life, attending the gatherings. But without the realization of the need to fight for spiritual children and raise them up, we may unknowingly carry our second generation out of the church life (out of the city) in a coffin. Sometimes, we may be the ones who put our children in a coffin and carry them out. We need the Lord to have mercy on us to speak to us, to touch our coffin, and alert us to pay attention to the growth and development of our second generation, to give them room to grow.

Luke 7:14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

Jesus touched the bier (coffin), and the bearers (those carrying the coffin) stood still.

The older ones, even the serving ones, in the church life may sometimes be the pall bearers (those carrying the coffin). Many of us may be well-intentioned, earnest and diligent to pursue the Bible, to prepare messages, to speak. We may even be in spirit and inspired. But do we know those to whom we are speaking? Do we know the receptivity of our audience? If we do not check, we may be unaware that we are carrying a coffin with spiritually dead people in it. We think we are helping people through our prophesying, but we may end up damaging them. We may even weep and lament the fact that many saints do not grow. Do we give them opportunity to grow? Or do we stifle them by our pursuing and our high standards?

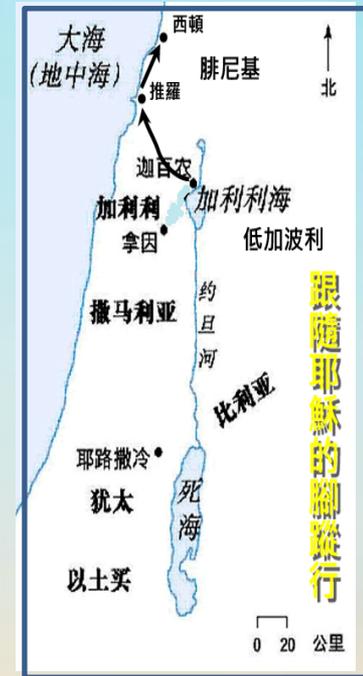
That is why we need Jesus to come and touch our bier (our church life, our operation, our goals), to cause us to stand still. Perhaps we need to withdraw from a certain service and find another field of operation so young people (the young man) can have room to grow. Perhaps we need to encourage many more saints to testify one thing that the Lord spoke to them, rather than a few mature brothers giving rich messages week by week. If the saints are relatively weak in life and do not grow, all our messages may not mean much.

➤ Luke 7:11 “a large crowd”

Where were they from? Why did these people go with Jesus? It was mentioned in **Luke 6:17**. They came from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They came to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. The distance between Jerusalem and Capernaum is around 185 km, so some people walked 4-5 days to be with Jesus. But did they really care about who Jesus was? I don't think so. Most of them might have been just curious about His teaching and hoped that Jesus could heal their diseases. Jesus had already proclaimed who He was (Luke 4:17-21); however, when the people saw the miracle of the dead son sitting up, they were seized by fear and said, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” They didn't think He was the Son of God. How about us? We all know Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but do we really care about what He wants us to do? Or do we just care about His blessing to us?

➤ Luke 7:12 “the widow”

Can we imagine what a hopeless situation the widow was in? Her only son was her remaining hope after the death of her husband, but her only son died, and her hope was shattered. What did Jesus say to her? “Do not weep.” Why did He say this to the widow who was in despair? Since He was the Savior, He knew what she needed, and He was able to satisfy her. Sometimes, we might be the widow, even though we are possibly not in that hard of a situation. We should come to the Lord, pray and tell him our situation. He knows everything about us. We will be filled with comfort, peace and love when we come to Him.



“Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, ***the only son of his mother, and she was a widow***: and much people of the city was with her.” -Luke 7:12-13

- Women were not bread-winners
- Without a husband, a widow was to be taken care of by her children/grandchildren (read 1 Timothy 5:4)
- Without her son, she had no one to provide for her and may have had little to no support in old age
- She had no help to found in the present and could neither expect it in the future
- She was ***in need***



“And when the Lord saw her, **he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not**. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And **he that was dead sat up**, and began to speak. And **he delivered him to his mother**. ”-Luke 7:14-15

- Even when we have no one else, the Lord is with us
- Are you in need?
- Does it seem hopeless?
- Is there no one around able to help?
- It is written: *“God is our refuge and strength, **a very present help in trouble**.” “God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: **God shall help her, and that right early**.” (Psalm 46:1,5)*



From Death to Life: All Things are Possible with God

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”
-Luke 1:37

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from
whence cometh my help. My help cometh
from the Lord, which made heaven and
earth.”-Psalm 121:1-2



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The tragedy of this case is unique - the widow's only son was carried in the coffin. Jesus' compassion, shown in His loving sympathy, is also unique - **no one asked him to do this, but in His mercy. He approached the widow and not the other way around**, and used His resurrection power to raise the widow's only son from the dead. He did not ask the widow to do anything. This indicates that His only mission is to save the lost sinners (**Luke 19:10**) and shows His virtuous humanity and uttermost compassion in saving sinners.

In the Old Testament era, there were **two great prophets** who raised the dead. One was Elijah, who raised the son of the widow of Zarephath (**1 Kings 17: 20-23**); the other was Elisha, who raised the son of the Shunammite woman (**2 Kings 4:32~35**).

Luke 7:16 **Fear seized them all**, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

Fear does not refer to the fear of offending God and being judged by God (1 Peter 1:17), but refers to the fear that we have sinned against God and will be judged by God (John 3:36).

However, we can be perfected in the love of God, and there is no fear in His perfect love (**1 John 4:18**). Yes, the love of God is perfect and complete in God Himself. However, the love of God must be fulfilled and completed in its manifestation in our daily living. God sent His only begotten Son to be our sacrifice and life. But if we do not use the love shown to us to love each other, that is, if we do not use God's love to love each other to show this love, and this love has not been fully and completely manifested, we will fear God. **In the church life majority of the saints do not fear God at all.**

1st Peter 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; **whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

1st John 4:18 here is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. **For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

Luke 7:17 And this report about him **spread through** the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

There are two aspects of the spreading of the gospel:

1. Sow the seeds; Jesus in Luke 7 was doing that;
2. Reap: Peter, John and other apostles in the book of Acts were partially sowing the seeds and partially reaping.

The Lord's words spoken by Peter and the other apostles (a spiritual team in one accord) had the same power and authority as Jesus' words to convict the believers to receive Christ's eternal life. This would please the Lord much more than the young man's being raised up from the dead and receiving back merely his mortal life, although this sign was performed by Jesus.

Acts 2:14 But **Peter, standing with the eleven**, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and **give ear to my words.**

Acts 2:41 So those who **received his word were baptized**, and **there were added that day about three thousand souls.**

Acts 4:1a, 4 And as **they (Peter and John) were speaking to the people**; But many of those who had heard the word believed, and **the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

John 4:47 For here the saying holds true, '**One sows and another reaps.**'