

## ***The God of Compassion***

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

### **Jesus had taught the Principles of the Kingdom of God, now He was demonstrating the Power of the Kingdom of God!**

- ❖ Both the Leper and the Centurion approached Jesus for help and Jesus healed the Leper and the Centurion's servant.
  - ♦ The widow at Nain did not approach Jesus, He approached her!
- ❖ Jesus was the living revelation of the God of Compassion!
  - Matthew 9:36* "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, ..."
  - Mark 6:34* "When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, ..."
  - Luke 15:20* "... But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him ..."

### **The Widow at Nain**

- ❖ The Woman was a widow.
  - ♦ Widows were often times poor as their husband, the primary provider, was gone.
    - ↳ After the church was born, one of its responsibilities was to provide for widows.
      - Acts 6:1* "Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution."
- ❖ The dead man was her only son.
  - ♦ Once the husband was dead, the son assumed the responsibility as provider.
  - ♦ The widow would now be without income.
  - ♦ In the days of Elijah, the Widow of Zarephath was in a desperate situation *1 Kings 17:8-24*
- ❖ Jesus had compassion for the widow.
  - Compassion*: "(oikteiro) to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others."<sup>1</sup>
  - ♦ Jesus used one word, "arise", and the dead man sat up and spoke!
- ❖ Jesus' miracle resulted in both Fear and Glorification of God!
  - "Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has arisen among us!' and 'God has visited his people!'" *Luke 7:16*

### **The Widow of Shumen**

- ❖ Over 500 years before Christ, Elisha came to the need of a widow. *2 Kings 4:1-7*
- ❖ Elisha raises the Shunammite Widow's son. *2 Kings 4:18-37*

### **Jesus modeled the life His disciples were to live!**

*James 1:27* "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4* "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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