

Luke 7:11-17

“Our Compassionate God”

June 5, 2016

Jesus Christ is our God and our Savior. One of the qualities of the Christ is seen in our text. Jesus Christ is compassionate. He raised the son of the widow of Nain from the dead because He had compassion for her. He gave His life on the Cross at Calvary because He had compassion for us. Even though we were still sinners, He gave His life for us that we might share eternity with Him.

We live in a world which has just as much hurt and pain as the widow of Nain’s world. Why does our God not ease our pain with His compassionate heart? Why does He not appoint healers to walk this earth looking for those in need of healing and restore them? I think the answer is that Jesus Christ and His Disciples healed so that we would listen to the Gospel hope. Notice that we have recorded that only three were raised from the dead in Jesus three year ministry. Many more died during that time. Likewise only a fraction of those who needed healing were healed by Jesus and His Disciples. Why? Jesus did not come to heal the body and restore our physical life. Jesus came to heal the soul. The healings of the body were only to get our attention.

Every once in a while we hear of healings today, but we should only take heart because of them when they point to Jesus Christ. Unless Christ is the center

and focus of the healings then it has no meaning for us. Unless it leads us to the teachings about the hope we find in Jesus Christ, then it has no meaning for us. People claim to be healers and later we find that some ended up glorifying themselves. In the Book of Acts there is the story of Simon the magician who wanted to pay Peter for the gift of being able to heal. Peter rejected Simon. Later we learned that Simon the magician was the source of a lot of heresies including the heresy that the god over our God was a woman called Sophia. Of course there is not god above our God. Nor is our God a man or a woman. He is a spiritual being.

So what are the teachings that God wanted us to hear? First, we learn from the Bible that the sin of Adam and Eve caused us to be cast out of the Garden of Eden. The sin of Adam and Eve brought sin, disease and death to us. The sin of Adam and Eve brought weeds and heavy toil for those seeking to gain food from the soil. The sin of Adam and Eve brought a world of storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters. The sin of Adam and Eve brought war and rumors of war down to this day. The sin of Adam and Eve brought crime and death at the hands of fellow sinners. The sin of Adam and Eve brought painful childbirth.

Second, we learn from the Bible that God had compassion for us and sent His only Son to be a sacrifice as payment for our sins. Christ humbled Himself by giving up the glory that was His in heaven and becoming one of us. Then Christ led

the perfect life that we are unable to live. Finally Christ died as payment for our failures. We are called to humble ourselves and depend upon His undeserved grace and mercy for our salvation. We are called to humble ourselves and take the ego, the pride out of our lives and follow Christ as His Disciples.

Third, we learn from the Bible that God through Christ sent the Holy Spirit to us to call us to faith and encourage us to keep the faith. It does no good to live a thousand years and lose our soul. It does no good to have a healthy body all of our lives and lose our soul. It does no good to make all of the right decisions and do all the right things and say all the right things in the eyes of the world and lose our soul. Healing the body and raising the dead only addresses the needs of now. In Christ, God calls us to look beyond the needs of now and see the hope of eternity. America is an example of a land that has too much and we leave our God to indulge in our plenty. Of course people are still left out. The poor are always with us. Likewise those who have so much find it not to be enough. Fourth in Christ, we learn to be content in every and all circumstances. Amen.