

LUKE I Alive From the Dead Text: Luke 7:11–17

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Turning Tears of Sorrow into Tears of Joy

1. The Poet Robert Frost was asked what he'd learned by the end of his life.

He said, "Everything I've learned about life can be summed up in 3 words—It Goes On."

Now We know that life goes on even when someone has died—Life goes on for those left behind
But the Bible says that Life Goes On — Even After Death... For Every Person Who's ever Died

2. Here we see the Meeting of two groups...

- a. One is Following Jesus and they just arrived in the city of Nain
- b. The Other is Another Group... a procession of sorrow due to a tragic death
- c. One Group is with the Creator of Life — the other is under the shadow of death

3. The Meeting of two only sons...

- a. This young man was the only son of his mother and now he has died
- b. Jesus is the only begotten son of God, who will also experience death

4. The Conflict between two enemies...

- a. The Power of Death Is face to face with the Creator of All Life

I. THE TRAGEDY OF DEATH (v.11–12)

A. EVERY DEATH IS A TRAGEDY

1. **But This Death is Even More Tragic—the death of an only son of a Widow**
 - a) A Woman Who Has Already Lost Her Husband to Death
 - b) And Now Has Lost Her Only Son to Death and is Left With Nothing
2. **Lisa's grandfather grew up living in the old mining camps in Hazzard co Ky**
 - a) He said he remembers hearing the loud cries in the night of widows
who's husband had died in a mining accident just hours before
 - b) He remembered seeing them the next day packing up to leave
They had nothing left and couldn't stay
 - c) They had to find family to take them in

B. DEATH IS AN INTRUDER snatching away loved ones like a lion seeking whom he may devour...

1. **It's been said that one death is a tragedy, but a million deaths is a statistic**
 - a) **But Even the Statistics do not lie. —Across the world...**
 - (1) **Deaths per Day: 332,648**
 - (2) **Deaths per Hour: 13,860**
 - (3) **Deaths per Minute: 231**
 - (4) **Deaths per Second: 3.85**
2. **It's been called FACEBOOK AFTERLIFE; or the Digital Graveyard...**
 - a) According to an Oxford University study: Statistically at some point in next 50 yrs...
There will be more deceased FB users than living ones.
 - b) Even now Facebook is using AI to stop users from getting painful notifications, like
birthday notices or memories from friends and family who are no longer with us.

(Facebook's Dead Users Will Outnumber the Living Sooner Than You Think, PC Magazine; May, 2019)

C. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD...

- 1. God created a perfect cosmos and placed us in a perfect garden**
 - a) He created us in His Image with a Spirit and Moral Free-Will
 - b) But Sin destroyed the perfect garden, the perfect world, and perfect peace...
bringing suffering and death into the world
- 2. Sin Brought Suffering and Death into the World...
and it is STILL causing Suffering and Death in the World...**
 - a) **Sometimes we experience anxiety from traumatic events of our past
even when don't understand or even remember why.**
 - b) For example: one man had such a fear of flying in planes that he would actually have an anxiety attack, and couldn't breathe
 - c) but he didn't know why... and He wanted to fly so he talked to a christian counselor and through the process of answering questions to find out when this fear started
 - d) **He remembered when everything changed in his life. He was 12 yrs old**
 - e) His dad would fight with his mother and finally left for good.
 - f) And on the way out he handed his 12 yr old son a pile of bills and the checkbook and bank account ledger and said this your responsibility now—and Left.
 - g) That memory was so terrible that he was left with a fear of trusting anyone who was supposed to be in charge of taking care of him.
 - h) How can you trust anyone who could just walk off the job because they don't care!
 - i) They ABANDONED Their Own Family!
- 3. We've All Had Our Trust Broken By Someone—**
 - a) And it Leaves us Hurt, Wounded, Scarred. We don't want to trust anyone ever again
- 4. Death can bring that Fear—Fear down to the bones...
Fear that We've been Abandoned... even by God...**

But the Sorrow and Tragedy of Loss—is Met by the Compassion of Christ

II. THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST (v.12–13)

A. DOES GOD KNOW OUR TEARS?

- 1. It has been said that “tears are words that cannot be spoken.”**
 - a) “What happens to our tears? We wipe them away...
We assume they evaporate somewhere into the great universe.” (Lowell F Johnson)
- 2. But the Bible tells us that God Knows the tears of His children ...**
 - a) “You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle;
Are they not in Your book? (Psalm 56:8)
- 3. He Knows every tear that is shed — and the reason for every tear.**
 - a) He Knows Because He Cares

B. JESUS SEES THE TEARS OF A MOTHER

‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

- 1. It was about a days journey from Capernaum to Nain —**
 - a) and Jesus just happens to arrive at the moment of this mother’s crisis
 - b) He could’ve stayed in Capernaum... or went to Galilee... or Jerusalem...
- 2. No one asked Jesus to come to this city...**
 - a) Are we to think this is just a coincidence? Accident? That Jesus didn’t know?
- 3. Jesus Knows Every Tear — and This is No Chance Meeting!**
 - a) Jesus traveled 25 miles to Help a Grieving Widow!

C. JESUS KNOWS AND JESUS CARES

‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

- 1. Death had taken her husband and now death had taken her son**
 - a) He has compassion for the sorrows of our heart!
 - b) He sympathizes with our weaknesses
- 2. Jesus was moved to the depths of his heart.**
 - a) There is no stronger word in the Greek language for sympathy
 - b) **Greek (esplagchnisthe):** to be moved inwardly, to yearn with tender mercy, affection, pity, empathy, compassion. It is the deepest movement of emotions possible; being moved within the deepest part of one’s being.
- 3. This Means That Jesus Feels Our Pain and Suffering!**
 - a) **This Greek Word is used of Jesus over and over in the New Testament**
 - b) He Had Compassion on the Multitudes and Healed their Afflictions (Matt 14:14)
 - c) Compassion for the Poor & Hungry... the Sick & Afflicted... the Lost & Scattered
 - d) He Wept over the City of Jerusalem... — He Wept at the Tomb of Lazarus
- 4. And now He says to this grieving mother, “Do Not Weep”**
 - a) Jesus Never Gave a Command—without Supplying the Power to Obey It!
 - b) Then He Gives Her a Gift to Take Away Her Tears—Her son alive from the dead!

The Sorrow and Tragedy of Loss... is Transformed by the POWER of Christ

III. THE POWER OF JESUS OVER DEATH (v.14–17)

A. JESUS BROKE UP EVERY FUNERAL HE EVER ATTENDED!

- 1. I read about a Preacher was asked to conduct a funeral service...**
 - a) so he decided to study the gospels to find a funeral sermon delivered by Jesus.
 - b) But he couldn’t find one—because Jesus broke up every funeral service He ever attended by raising them back to life!
- 2. Jesus Knows Every Tear — and This is No Chance Meeting!**
 - a) Jesus traveled 25 miles to Help a Grieving Widow!
 - b) He traveled a days journey to Turn Tears of Sorrow Into Tears of Joy!
- 3. Jesus Turns Tears of Sorrow into Tears of Joy!**

B. JESUS SPEAKS AND THE DEAD ARE RAISED!

- 1. Jesus spoke to this young man—and he rose from the dead!**
 - a) Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. (Lk 7:14-15)
- 2. Jesus spoke to Jarius’ Daughter who was dead—she arose...**
 - a) He...took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. (Luke 8:54)
- 3. Jesus Spoke to Lazarus in the grave...**
 - a) He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.” (John 11:43-44)

C. JESUS HAS POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH

- 1. Jesus Broke Up Every Funeral He Ever Attended...**
- 2. He Speaks and the Dead are Raised...**
- 3. And Soon Jesus will Speak to raise ALL the dead w/ His voice! (Jn 5:28-29)**
- 4. Jesus Has Power Over Disease... Over Nature... Over Demons...**
- 5. and the last enemy that will be destroyed is death.**

(1 Corinthians 15:51–53)
- 6. In a moment, in the twinkling of the eye, the dead will be raised**
- 7. We will be caught up to Jesus in the Air to be with Him forever**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jesus told this grieving mother to stop weeping...**
- 2. And He Will Wipe Away All the Tears from OUR eyes (Revelation 21:4)**
- 3. Jesus became Like Us so We Could Become Like Him**

He Died So That We Could Live! (John 11:25–26)
- 4. Jesus turns our Tears of Sorrow into Tears of Joy!**