

JESUS RETURNS THE WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE

A Widow's Plight

You might not have called her old—not by today's standards, anyway—but in appearance, she looked to have aged far beyond her years. At the death of her husband, she had lost the man who had provided for her and her son. Getting along without him had been difficult. In Bible times, women were provided for by the men in their family. There existed no welfare assistance or government aid of any kind. Her only hope rested with her son, because the responsibility for caring for parents fell upon children. Pensions did not exist; the concept of retirement plans remained thousands of years in the future. Now, with the death of her only son, the woman's hopes for the future had died at well. As they carried her son's body outside the town, the woman began to weep.

Jesus acted compassionately toward the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17). Consider the following illustrations. Write Jesus' words inside the speech bubbles. Then tell what each of following scenes shows us about Jesus.



Luke 7:11-13



Luke 7:14-17

REVIEW

compassion—

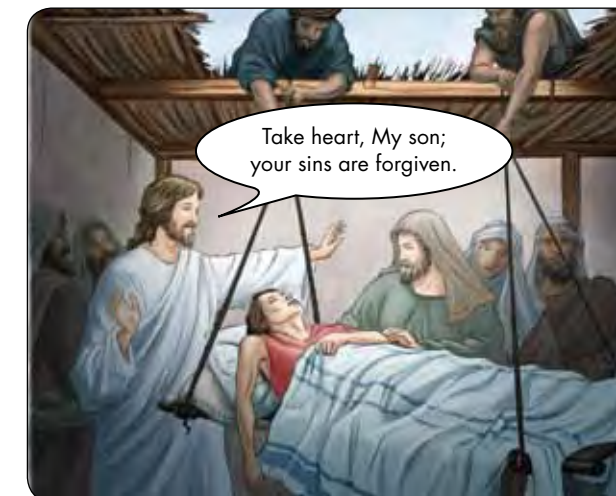
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Jesus Has Compassion

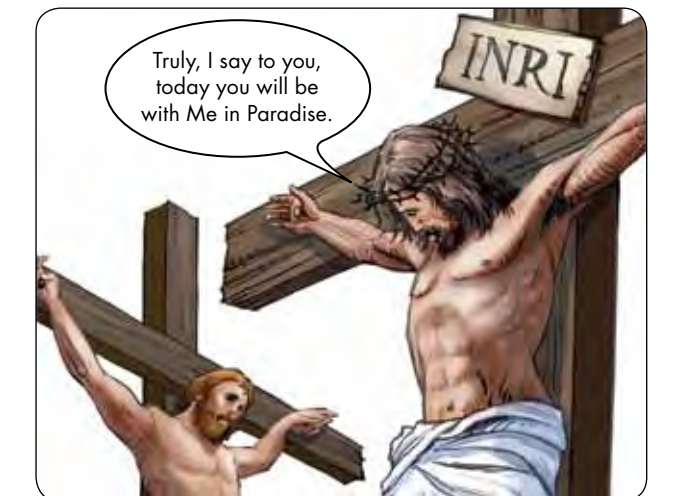
We do not know the reason for the death of the young man of Nain. We do not even know his name. Those details were not important for Luke to record, but the fact that Jesus brought him back to life was. We are like the young man in that we were dead in our transgressions and sins. Jesus comes to us in His Word and Sacraments and raises us from the daily death of sin and gives us new life in Him.

Consider the words of Jesus in two encounters pictured below. On the lines above each scene, identify the Bible story, describing the compassion Jesus evidenced in each situation. On the lines below each situation, tell what Jesus' words mean to us as twenty-first-century followers of Jesus.

Matthew 9:1-8



Luke 23:32-43



REMEMBER

You have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:11b