

# Luke 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.** The collision of two crowds—Jesus' disciples and mourners carrying a corpse—sets the stage for divine intervention. The Greek idou (ἰδού, behold) alerts readers to something extraordinary. The dead man was monogenēs (μονογενής, only-begotten/only son)—the same term describing Christ as God's only Son (John 3:16), creating poignant irony.

The widow's triple tragedy compounds: chēra (χήρα, widow) already bereaved of her husband, now losing her monogenēs, leaving her utterly destitute and alone. Ancient widows without sons faced economic ruin and social vulnerability. The large crowd (ὄχλος...ικανός) signifies community compassion but offers no real help. Only Christ can reverse death's finality and restore this woman's hope.

## Historical Context

First-century Jewish widows without male relatives faced desperate poverty, having no inheritance rights or means of support. The Torah commanded care for widows (Deuteronomy 24:19-21), but reality often fell short. This widow's only son represented her sole security, making his death economically catastrophic as well as emotionally devastating.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the widow's utter helplessness illustrate humanity's condition before Christ—spiritually dead and without hope?
2. What does Jesus' intervention in this uninvited, unasked situation teach about His sovereign compassion?
3. How should Christ's concern for the most vulnerable (widows, orphans) shape your ministry priorities and social ethics?

## Interlinear Text

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ώς δὲ ἥγγισεν τῇ πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως καὶ ἴδού,  
when Now he came nigh G1448 to the gate G3588 of the city G4172 and G2532 G2400

ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκώς νιὸς μονογενὴς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτῇ<sup>3</sup>  
carried out a dead man son the only G3588 mother her G3384 G846

καὶ αὐτῇ ἦν χήρα καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἵκανὸς ἦν  
and her was a widow and people G3588 of the city G4172 much G2425 was G2258

σὺν αὐτῇ  
with her  
G4862 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 8:42** (Parallel theme): For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

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