

Luke 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Analysis

Seeing the widow, Jesus 'had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.' The Greek 'splanchnizomai' (σπλαγχνίζομαι, have compassion) denotes deep, visceral mercy—moved in one's inner being. Jesus' compassion prompted action—He raised her son. The command 'Weep not' wasn't callous dismissal but compassionate promise—He would end her grief. This scene reveals Jesus' heart toward human suffering, particularly the vulnerable (widows, orphans). His compassion leads to redemptive action, demonstrating God's character as defender of the helpless.

Historical Context

Widows in ancient society were economically and socially vulnerable, lacking male protection and provision. A widow's only son was her sole means of support and continuity. His death meant destitution and the end of her family line. The funeral procession from Nain to the burial site outside the city walls encountered Jesus entering the city—divine life meeting human death. Jesus' touching the coffin (bier) made Him ceremonially unclean by Jewish law, yet He prioritized human need over ritual purity. His power over death foreshadowed His own resurrection and ultimate victory over death itself.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' compassion toward the widow teach about God's heart for the vulnerable and suffering?
2. How does Jesus' raising the widow's son demonstrate His power over death and foreshadow His own resurrection?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτῇ ὁ κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ
And **saw** **her** ^{G3588} **when the Lord** **he had compassion** **on** **her**
G2532 G1492 G846 G2962 G4697 G1909 G846

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ Μὴ κλαῖε
And **said** **her** **not** **Weep**
G2532 G2036 G846 G3361 G2799

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Psalms 103:13 (References Lord): Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Psalms 86:15 (References Lord): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Jeremiah 31:20 (References Lord): Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore

my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

Luke 8:52 (Parallel theme): And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

Psalms 86:5 (References Lord): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Hebrews 2:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Mark 8:2 (Parallel theme): I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

John 20:15 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.