

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Restored by Grace: Jesus Brings Life

Opening Prayer:

Lord, Your Word declares, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). As we reflect on Your presence, let Your light bring healing and hope to the dark and broken places in our lives. May Your Word renew us with life and joy. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Read: Luke 7:11-17

The Christmas story is filled with wonder and joy, but it also speaks deeply to those who feel weighed down by sorrow. In Luke 7, Jesus approaches a town called Nain and encounters a funeral procession. A widow is mourning the loss of her only son, her source of hope and security. The weight of her grief must have been overwhelming, her future seemingly swallowed by darkness.

But then Jesus intervenes. The text tells us, “When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep’” (Luke 7:13). His compassion leads to a miraculous act of restoration. Jesus touches the bier, speaks life into the young man, and gives him back to his mother. In this moment, the light of His presence transforms despair into joy, death into life.

This story reminds us that Jesus is the Restorer of life and the One who meets us in our darkest seasons. His presence, both then and now, is not distant or indifferent. He is near to the grieving, the hopeless, and the brokenhearted. Just as He stepped into the widow’s sorrow and brought life where there was death, He steps into the dark and difficult places in our lives today, bringing His life-giving presence.

Christmas celebrates the coming of Emmanuel—“God with us.” His presence doesn’t just comfort us; it redeems and restores. The birth of Jesus marks the beginning of

God's great rescue plan to bring life where sin has brought death. No season is beyond His reach, and no darkness can overcome His light.

Conclusion:

The miracle at Nain points to the ultimate hope we have in Jesus. His presence not only meets us in our current struggles but promises eternal restoration. This Christmas, as we reflect on His coming, let us remember that He is the God who brings life, hope, and joy to every season of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. How does Jesus' compassion in this story encourage you to trust Him with your struggles?
2. What are some ways you can share the life and hope of Jesus with your friends?
3. How can reflecting on His presence bring you peace in stressful situations?

For Parents:

1. How can this story remind your family of Jesus' power to restore hope in challenging times?
2. In what ways can you model Christ's compassion in your parenting?
3. How does the presence of Jesus impact your family's view of difficult seasons?

For Professionals:

1. How can Jesus' compassion inspire you to show care and kindness to colleagues?
2. In what ways does this story challenge you to see hope in seemingly impossible situations?
3. How can focusing on Christ's restorative power bring joy to your daily work?

This week, identify one area in your life where you feel a loss of hope or joy. Pray specifically for Jesus to bring restoration and life into that space. Then ask Him to help you bring encouragement to someone else who might be struggling.