

The Day We Danced on Death's Grave

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 7:11-17



Big Idea

Christians don't cheat death. In Christ, they defeat it. And they dance on its grave!

(1) His Heart Aches (vv. 11-13)

This poor woman can't hide from death. It keeps finding her. But now the Author of Life has found her as well. And His heart aches. "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her . . ." Our Savior is not made of steel. He can be touched. He can be moved. His heart aches with compassion for the suffering of mankind, for your suffering. This will be something that marks Jesus' ministry significantly. Indeed, it is one of the principal motivations behind all that He does. Compassion.

When Jesus calls this woman not to weep, He does not say it as One insensitive to or out of touch with suffering. He says it as One who knows there is something on the other side of suffering, something God is planning to do for His children that we would hardly believe it if it were told to us. He says this as One who sees the abundance of *life* that awaits us on the other side of *death*. He's telling her to not weep because He has plans and power that she knows nothing of yet.

(2) His Touch Unwounds (v. 14a)

Jesus' touches the bier. An act that would have made Him ceremonially unclean according to Jewish law (Num 19). But Jesus seems unconcerned with this. His compassion compels Him to touch the corpse, to bring cleanness and life to this young man, even if it means ultimately Christ Himself will have to become the unclean and dead thing on the cross. "Bury Me outside the city gate. But don't you bury this boy!" His touch "unwounds".

(3) His Voice Awakens (vv.14b-17)

With a word, Jesus turns this funeral procession into a street party. Where there was mourning and weeping under the shadow of death, now there is laughter and joy in the light of life. We can almost see this woman dancing with her boy in the streets, the same boy she was preparing to bury just moments before.

I titled this message "The Day We Danced on Death's Grave", not because of what Jesus does for this woman and her son here. But because of what He has done for all of us on the cross, and because of what He will do for all of us on the last day. It's to these ultimate realities that this story points!

Reflection Questions



- Describe your experience with death. Are you intrigued by it, terrified by it, fixated on it, hiding from it, apathetic about it? How close has death come to you, your family/friends?
- Do you know that Christ's heart aches for you? Do you live under the skies of His compassion? Or are you all but sure that you are suffering now alone? Why do you think you feel the way you do? How can the church help?
- Describe touch in your life. Have you been wounded by it, healed by it? How do you use it, with your spouse, your kids, your friends? Why is this even important to consider?
- What are you hoping in for eternal life? Why is the gospel of Jesus Christ unlike any other "gospel"?