

## JESUS OUR HOPE

*Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."*

*Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

*They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.*

*– Luke 7:11-17 [NIV]*

Here was a widow who was on her way to bury her only son. As a widow in the then Jewish culture, the person taking care of her was her son. Now he was dead. Her hope was gone. She seemed to have accepted the situation by being part of the procession to bury her son. Maybe in her heart, questions were tumbling over themselves: why me? What am I going to do now? What am I being punished for? Your life has fallen or is falling apart. Your marriage has gone down the drain. Your children have turned rebellious. Or your finances are in shambles. You simply have no control over your situation. You are in a hopeless situation, just like this widow.

It is interesting to note that she had a large crowd with her in her procession of hopelessness. These are the support people. Their presence did not change the situation. There was a small group who were carrying the coffin. They represent the professionals – psychiatrists, therapists, doctors, even clergymen.

They made no difference to the hopeless situation. You may think you are lucky having your family and friends around you. But if their being there does not turn the situation around, then you are still trudging along in your procession of hopelessness. The professionals are there to prop you up. Yet your situation remains unchanged.

Jesus came on the scene. The bible says, 'Jesus went to a town called Nain... As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out-the only son of his mother...' There was no indication that Jesus was invited, but he came anyway. In your hopeless situation, you have not thought to invite Jesus. But the good news is that he is here. The fact that you are reading this confirms his presence.

The bible says, 'When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."' Jesus identified with her emotionally and spoke words of comfort unto her. You may be fortunate enough to have people who are there to offer you such support. People who identify with your situation, who make their shoulders available for you to cry on, who take time out just to be with you. You may not be the one in that hopeless situation but have been a support person at one time or the other. You have gone out of your way to show God's love to those in need around you. This is good but it is not enough.

Jesus went up and touched the coffin. He stopped the procession of hopelessness. He spoke words of life to the dead son. The bible says, 'The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.' The dead son became alive! The widow did not prevent him from stopping her procession and she got her son back. Even if you did not invite him, he has come to help you. You can either allow him or turn him away. He wants to resurrect those dead, hopeless situations in your life. My friend, Jesus does not only offer you comfort, he is offering you hope and He will turn your situation around.

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