

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

WIDOW OF NAIN: LESSON TWO

by Sandy Harber

"And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people." Luke 7:11

Jesus traveled 25 miles from Capernaum to Nain "the day after." The day after what? If we back up to the beginning of chapter 7 we find Jesus entering Capernaum after delivering the Sermon on the Mount (Lk. 6:20-49). On hearing that Jesus had arrived in the town, a Roman Centurion asked the Jewish elders to intercede for him (Lk. 7:3). The centurion wanted Jesus to come and heal his servant who was near death. Jesus complied with the request. But before Jesus reached the centurion's house his friends met Jesus with a message (Lk. 7:6). The centurion believed that Jesus had the power to heal his servant where He was. This Roman officer humbly confessed that he was not worthy to entertain the Savior in his home. Just "say in a word, and my servant shall be healed," the centurion said (Lk. 7:7). Jesus granted the centurion's request and healed the servant without actually seeing him (Lk. 7:10).

Jesus had been sent to minister to the house of Israel (Mt. 15:24) but He occasionally made exceptions when He encountered Gentiles who demonstrated faith in Him. The Roman Centurion was such an exception. Jesus declared that He had not found any Jews with faith as great as this Roman officer (Lk. 7:9). None of us are worthy to entertain the Son of God in our homes. But He makes exceptions for those who by faith accept His gift of salvation and He makes His home in our hearts.

Twenty-five miles was a good day's journey for someone who was traveling on foot. The trip took hours. Jesus was accompanied by His disciples and a crowd of people. Imagine hundreds, maybe thousands, of people wanting to see Jesus so much that they were willing to follow Him all day to an unknown destination. We're lucky if we can get people to drive a few miles to church every Sunday. The people were anxious to hear Jesus speak and to witness healings, maybe even be the recipient of divine healing.

Jesus' destination was Nain, a small village located about six miles southeast of Nazareth. It is still in existence today, though it is called "Nein," Nain is only mentioned in this one place in Scripture. Apparently, Jesus completed all the work necessary in this town in one day and never visited it again.

Jesus knows what each one of us needs and when we need it. He is never too early or too late with the solution to our problems. And no effort is too great for Him to expend on our behalf. In His humanity, Jesus walked 25 miles in one day to render aid to an unnamed widow. Just as He could heal a man while not being physically present, Jesus knew someone 25 miles away needed His help.

Jesus also knows when you need help. And He will expend any effort to be there for you. Do you have faith like the centurion to believe that? Even if you don't, He will still be there for you. The widow didn't send for Jesus. She may not have even known Who He was. The Bible doesn't say that she had faith in Him. He helped her anyway. The widow had a need and Jesus filled it. Our Great Shepherd cares for us. You can rest safely in His care.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1