

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### WIDOW OF NAIN: LESSON THREE

by Sandy Harber

**"Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her." Luke 7:12**

Jesus and His followers had walked all day covering the 25 miles from Capernaum to Nain. It would have been late in the afternoon when Jesus' procession approached the town gate. They were met by another procession exiting the town. A funeral procession.

The first person Jesus saw was a widow, mother of the deceased, who walked before the bier on which her son's body rested. The day had not gone well for this poor woman. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this was one of the worst days of her life. She had no idea that all that was about to change.

No one's life can ever be the same after meeting Jesus. Anyone who has ever had a real, meaningful encounter with the Savior has come out of the experience forever changed. Andrew, Peter, James, and John were not content catching fish after meeting Jesus. They were transformed into fishers of men. Saul of Tarsus became Paul the Apostle after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus.

If you have been introduced to the Jesus of the Bible, the Son of God Who died in your place and paid your sin debt, you are not the same person you were before you heard the good news. Coming face to face with the Truth (Jesus is the Truth - Jn. 14:6) forces you to make a choice: accept the Truth or reject it. If you have accepted the Truth of the gospel you have been transformed into a new creature (II Cor. 5:17). Jesus gave life to your spirit (that part of you that can communicate with God) which was spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1), just as He gave life to the widow's son who was physically dead (Jn. 7:15).

Jesus can take the worst day of your life and transform it just by being there. When my husband died I cried out to Jesus and He gave me comfort and peace. He walked through those dark days of my life beside me, holding my hand and whispering words of encouragement. Nothing in this life is so awful that His presence cannot lighten the load.

Jesus sought out the widow, not the other way around. He knew her need before she did and He came to bring her relief. There are many examples in the Gospels where Jesus sought out an individual in order to satisfy their need. John 1:43 tells us that Jesus "found" Philip - that is, Jesus specifically sought him out. Why? To extend an invitation to become one of His followers. Philip had been looking for the Messiah to come and, behold, the Messiah found him first (Jn. 1:45)! A woman of Samaria was, likewise, waiting for the Messiah (Jn. 4:25). Jesus made a special trip into Samaria (normally Jews went around Samaria rather than travel through it) to seek out this woman (Jn. 4:4). He offered her living water (Jn. 4:10) and brought salvation to her village (Jn. 4:39-42). Jesus sought out the tax collector Zacchaeus, sitting in a tree (Lk. 19:3-5), and brought salvation to his house (Lk. 19:9).

Likewise, Jesus came to earth, the place where man dwells, seeking the lost (Lk. 19:10). He knew that mankind needed deliverance from sin and that we could not save ourselves. So He came to us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus came to the town of Nain because that's where the widow was. He seeks us out and, then, meets us where we are. Have you met the Savior?

*"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*