

The four Gospels in the New Testament are filled with records of Jesus performing the miracle of healing. Why did Jesus heal? Each healing miracle happened in a different context with its own lessons that the Lord wants us to learn. Luke 7:11-17 records Jesus' first miracle of raising the dead: He raised a widow's son from the dead. The lesson we can learn from this healing miracle by Jesus is His compassion for mankind, i.e. the love of Jesus.

Naturally, man longed to be loved just like children crave for their parents' love. However, the love that we receive from our friends and family, and even our loved ones, are never perfect. Some of them may even bring us sorrow. But as a child of God, we know that Jesus loves us perfectly. He will never hurt or betray us. He has perfect compassion for us. This miracle of healing will allow us to study His love in a time of sorrow.

When Jesus and His disciples entered the city of Nain, they witnessed the grief of a widow upon the loss of her only son. It was a time of great sorrow for the widow because she not only lost her dear son, she also experienced loneliness and lack. Having lost both her husband and only son, she did not have a family to return home to. And she was also left alone to fend for herself and was forced to live in poverty.

To such a destitute, Jesus chose to show His love and compassion. But why did He choose to show His compassion to this particular widow? Jesus decided to help this widow simply because He loved her. And part of God's love in action is that He chooses to love whom He will. He will not only proclaim His love for her, He will also demonstrate His love in His action.

Jesus comforted this widow first by telling her not to weep, and then He proceeded to raise her son from the dead. Jesus showed how powerful and concrete His words of comfort were. All things He proclaimed will come to pass. This is unlike our love which is limited by our limited power.

And when the people saw the power of Jesus' love, they trembled because they understood that only God has power over life and death. Upon seeing Jesus raised the dead, they knew that they were unworthy to stand in His presence. But their fear of Jesus did not push them away from God. Instead, it drew them closer, and the people started to glorify God and acknowledged that Jesus is the promised Great Messiah. They understood all these because they witnessed the miracle performed by Jesus.

Only Jesus' love is everlasting, powerful and sufficient for us. He loves us not because we are deserving of His love or that He pities us, but because He simply chooses to love us. Is this not reason enough for us to love Him, our loving God, in return?

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