

How Can I Be Thankful?

Lesson 46

Luke 7:11-16

Memory Verse

Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.
Psalm 119:37

Introduction

Have you ever had a sad time in your life? Jesus experienced them too.

Scripture

Today we are again learning what it means to be thankful. After Jesus made the army man's servant well, He went to another town. His friends came with Him, as well as a big crowd of people. They probably wanted to know more about Jesus and listen to Him speak about God.

Luke 7:11-12

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.

Discussion

Ask: What did they see on the way?

On the way to the town, they saw a funeral. A son was being carried out in a coffin. There were many people filled with much sadness. The man's mother was there. She was by herself because her husband had already died. Lots of people from the town were with her, caring for her.

Luke 7:13

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

Ask: What did Jesus do?

When Jesus saw the mother, He was sad too. He wanted to help her. Jesus said, "Don't cry."

1. Jesus saw her.

There are times when we are too busy to see the people around us. There are times when we have something to do and we think it is best to ignore what we see. Jesus showed us the importance of seeing people.

2. Jesus had compassion.

Because of our busyness we do not allow ourselves to feel compassion. We don't have time, we don't want to waste our energy, or we think it is easier to ignore the situation we face.

Discussion

3. Jesus spoke to her.

The voice of God is a calming voice; it is a voice that comforts; it is a voice that strengthens. Jesus spoke to the woman with that voice. It was not a long conversation. His words were few. But Jesus spoke to her. Jesus shows us the important of speaking to others.

Jesus was very caring to the mother. He did something that no other person could do. He made the son alive. Jesus cared for the woman and wanted to help. He was even gentle in the way that He talked to her.

Luke 7:14

Then he went up and touched the coffin and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

Ask: What did Jesus do?

He went up to the coffin and touched it. The people carrying it stood still. They were probably wondering what Jesus was going to do.

Next, He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

4. Jesus resurrected the dead man.

Jesus took action. In that moment Jesus stopped to help the woman.

Jesus did something no one else could do. Jesus resurrected the man.

Luke 7:15

The dead man sat up and began to talk and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Ask: What happened next?

Suddenly, the dead man was alive! He sat up and began to talk. Jesus helped him out and walked him back to his mother.

Luke 7:16

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."

Ask: What was the people's reaction?

They were all filled with fear. Seeing someone resurrected was not a common occurrence. But at the same time the people were aware that it was an act of God.

Everyone thanked God for what happened. Jesus was pleased with this. He always wanted God to get the credit for any special thing that happened. It is important to always thank God for how He has blessed us. God loves it when we tell Him "thank you!"

Application

Ask: What did the people think?

They knew that Jesus was no ordinary person. They said, "A great prophet is with us." Then they said, "God has come to help His people."

Ask: What did the people say?

God has come to help His people.

The people knew that Jesus was special. Jesus really did come to "help God's people." He did this in a way that seemed a little strange to some people.

Jesus knew that the only way for us to go to Heaven was for us to be clean. That meant He had to get rid of all our sins. The only way to do this was for Him to die for all our mistakes. Jesus did this to help us. When He died, He died for all the bad things we have ever done. The best thing is that He didn't stay dead. He came back to life! Jesus made a bridge for us to go to Heaven. If we believe in Jesus and know that He died for us, we can go to Heaven and be with Him forever. If we pray and ask God to forgive us for all our sins, He cleans them out of our lives. He makes us clean on the inside and gives us a place in Heaven.

When Jesus comes to live in our heart, He gives us a new life. And even when we die and leave this earth, if Jesus is in our heart, we are given new life in Heaven.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and have new life.