

When Jesus Sees Your Need

Miracles still happen

Yesterday Denise and I were a part of a celebration of life for my sister-in-laws mother who recently passed away. We sat in an outdoor dining space at IHOP eating a late breakfast, preparing to drive back home, when Denise saw a homeless man coming toward us. My back was to him but I could see from the look on her face the concern she had for his appearance and his situation. Ultimately, he came into the outdoor area and sat at a table in front of us and now I could see him face to face. I must confess that as this man sat across from me I felt very uncomfortable because I did not know what to do for him. There were many obvious needs however; my discomfort was not eased by meeting the physical needs of this individual. This man had deeper issues that I knew required much more time and care.

How does Jesus respond to deep needs that seemly have no easy answer? Let's look at a miracle in Jesus' ministry that teaches us how he responds to the pain and need of people who encounter him...

Luke 7:11-17 NLT

[11] Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. [12] A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. [13] When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. [14] Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." [15] Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. [16] Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, "A mighty prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people today." [17] And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

THREE WAYS JESUS RESPONDS TO YOUR BROKENNESS

1. Jesus sees your need.

Ever feel invisible?

Most of us do. Maybe just sometimes. Maybe all the time.

Jesus sees you. He notices you. He knows everything about you.

2. Jesus feels your pain.

Sympathy is feeling pain *for* someone.

Empathy is feeling pain *with* someone.

Jesus offers us both!

Hebrews 4:14-15 MSG

We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

3. Jesus acts on your behalf.

And what exactly did Jesus do? THe same thing he did everywhere else he went...

- He gives a look.
- He gives a word.
- He gives a touch.

He also created the ultimate model of ministry.

This is something YOU can do for others!

You may not be able to work miracles on demand, but...

- you can see people in their pain,
- you can feel their pain with them, and
- you can give people a look, a word, and a touch.

I wish I had made a better decision when I was given the opportunity to help the man who could not help himself. All I have to offer is the example of Jesus. Maybe you need to meet Jesus today and let him give you a look, a word, or a touch. Maybe you know someone who needs that from you.