

Jesus Raises The Dead



Luke 7:11-17 1 Kings 17:7-9, 17-24
1 Corinthians 15:35-44

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In the Scriptures, **miracles** always support the Word of God. Miracles are “signs” that point to Jesus’ Word¹ as faithful and true. *If Jesus, or one of the Prophets or one of the Apostles, has the power to work a miracle, then what they say is true also.* That is the main purpose of all miracles in the Bible:

Miracles prove that the Word is true.

Today in our Gospel lesson, we heard the story of Jesus working a miracle. He raised a dead boy who was *in his coffin and on his way to the cemetery!*

It was a **dramatic event** --- a **large** crowd following Jesus² meets the **large** funeral procession at the city gate; and **at the center of all these people was Jesus, the dead boy, and the grieving mother.**

The boy’s mother is a widow, and it literally says that her “**only begotten son**” had died. This woman had lost her husband, and now she has lost her **only begotten son**. She was all alone, and grieving terribly. Remember, “GRIEF” is a **heavy burden**³.

¹ The Miracles of Jesus do not create faith, only the Word of God can create faith. The miracles help you to know that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the World, and that His Words and promises are trustworthy and true.

² Luke does a double emphasis on the word “large” -- both the crowd following Jesus and the crowd following the mother is described as “large.”. When you think about the large crowd following Jesus, you can be thinking of thousands of people. Remember Jesus fed both 5000 and 4000 men (not counting women and children) who were following Him! There were a lot of people converging together for this event! (When was the last time you saw 4000-5000+ people outside at one place?)

³ “Grief” comes from the Old French word *grever* ‘to burden’ that comes from the Latin word *gravis* which means “heavy”. Grief is a “heavy burden”. (That is why it is so important to come alongside those who are grieving to help them carry this heavy burden by your words of comfort and actions of love.)

Jesus saw this mother's grief and sorrow; and it says that His "*heart went out to her.*" It means that Jesus had *compassion* for her, literally the word is a powerful and graphic word picture that means that *Jesus' stomach was twisted in knots* when He saw how much she was hurting; He was moved by her grief and sorrow. *By using the word "compassion", we are to understand that the death of this boy, and his mother's sorrow, hurt Jesus to the core.*

Jesus has compassion for you also. When you go through difficult things, the Lord sees and knows and has compassion for you. His heart twists for you. *He is hurt to the core.* The Lord's compassion moves Him to action; and He helps you. He comes alongside of you and speaks to you through His powerful Word; He promises to make everything work out for your ultimate good; He strengthens you, He comforts you, and He prays for you. You are never alone nor abandoned. *Jesus has compassion for you.*

Jesus' compassion for the widow quickly moves Him to action. In an unprecedented move, the Jewish Rabbi actually **touches** the dead body; and the Son of God **raises** the boy from the dead! *Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"* *The dead boy sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.* **Jesus has raised the dead!**

Remember, that **miracles** prove that the Word is true. And the end of this story is says this:

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." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. LUKE 7:16-17

This miracle paved the way for Jesus to teach and preach the Good News of salvation. The people understood that *He was a great prophet; that He was God who has come to help His people.* **If Jesus has the power to raise the dead, then pay attention to His words, because they are true and trustworthy.**

This miracle does *the same thing* for us today. As we hear about this miracle, and believe that Jesus actually did raise the dead boy, *we trust His word* and *believe His promises* to us.

The Resurrection of this boy from Nain helps us to trust Jesus' promise that He will raise us **from the dead on the Last Day**. Everyone of us is just like the dead boy in Nain.

Sin leaves us dead - both physically and spiritually.

Sin leaves us without life, without hope, and with no chance of saving ourselves. Without Christ, we are *in the coffin* and *on our way to the cemetery* in sin and guilt! We need Jesus to have compassion on us and intervene on our behalf ---- otherwise we will all die in our sin and face the wrath of God in the Final Judgment.

The Good News is that Jesus does intervene on your behalf! Jesus has **COMPASSION** on you just like He did that widow in Nain. His stomach was *twisted on knots* to see you trapped in sin and death, so He left Heaven and became a Man in order to make sure you will live forever with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom. **Jesus is more than a great Prophet; He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world!** He takes your sins to the cross, where He is put to death. Three days later, He rose from the dead to give you life!

The truth is that
it is **not** the widow's "**only begotten son**" who will die,
but God's "**Only Begotten Son**" who will die;
and He will die for the sins of the world!

Jesus died *once and for all* people, **including you!** Jesus' death brings forgiveness and reconciliation with God; His resurrection brings life and salvation to everyone – including you!

In the story, the widow of Nain's son is raised from the dead by the **Word of Jesus**. Jesus simply said, "**Young man, I say to you, GET UP!**" And the young man gets up! The power is in the **Word of Jesus**.

It happens the same way for you. **Jesus' Word** came to you in the water of Holy Baptism and raised you from the dead. **Holy Baptism is your "Nain experience", where Jesus finds you "dead in sin" and speaks His powerful Word of Life!** In Holy Baptism you are raised *spiritually* from the dead; with the **GUARANTEED PROMISE** that He will raise you *physically* from the dead on the Last Day! You have spiritual and eternal life NOW; and the promise of Resurrected life LATER⁴!

⁴ This sentence summarizes our "HOPE". Hope is absolute and confident faith in the promises of God, especially the promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. Hope is never in question ---

In Holy Baptism, it is **AS IF** Jesus called you by name and said, “*I say to you, get up!*” Baptism is the miracle of new life, Baptism is **Living Water**, *where your sinful nature is drowned and buried with Christ, and a new creation arises and lives before God in righteousness and purity forever!* In Holy Baptism, all the gifts of salvation were given to you, but today there are two gifts stand out in light of this Miracle at Nain.

1) In your Baptism, the powerful **Word of Jesus** gave you eternal life. Right now, in this life, and as you live and breathe, *you have eternal life!* Jesus said you have **already** crossed over from death to life. No matter how or when you end up dying, death cannot interrupt the eternal life you already have. The moment you die you are in the immediate presence of Christ! *Eternal life takes the sting out of death and dying!*

2) A second thing that happened in Holy Baptism is the powerful **Word of Jesus** promised you that **YOUR BODY** will rise from the dead *on the Last Day*. When Jesus returns, you will hear His Voice and your body will rise from the dead! Like the boy in Nain, your physical, dead body will rise, be glorified, and you will be reunited with your faithful loved ones in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Both eternal life now and the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day were given to you in Holy Baptism, and all of this happens only because of the powerful **Word of Jesus**, who Himself has *already* risen from the dead!

There were probably thousands of witnesses to this miracle!

- The miracle showed that Jesus was the **Son of God**
- The miracle showed that Jesus had **authority over life and death**
- The miracle paved the way so that the **Gospel can be proclaimed** and believed.

A story like this Miracle in Nain deepens our conviction in the words and promises of God --- especially the promises of the Resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting!

Amen!

unlike it's usage in English. In Scripture, HOPE is a certain and secure because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead!

LORD JESUS,

You have power over life and death, and by Your grace and mercy have given us eternal life. As we study Your Word, and learn about Your miracles like raising the dead boy in Nain, give us assurance and strengthen our faith. Allow us to have firm conviction in the Resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 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. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” 14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 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.” 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

1 Kings 17:7-9, 17-24

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 The word of the LORD came to Elijah: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”

17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” 19 “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” 22 The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” 24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”

1 Corinthians 15:35-44

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body