

The Raising Of A Widow's Son

Luke 7:11-17

By way of **background**: The **time** of this miracle is indicated by the words *“And it came to pass the day after” (verse 11)*. This would have been *“the day after”* **Christ** had healed the *“centurion’s servant”*. It is recorded that a large crowd is following **Jesus** as He approached **Nain (verse 11)**. They are **joyful** and full of **hope!** At the same time, a large funeral procession was leaving **Nain** headed for the cemetery **(verse 12)**. They are **mournful** and full of **sorrow!** The **place** of the miracle was at *“the gate of the city” (verse 12)*, of **Nain**, which was a day’s journey southwest of **Capernaum** where He had healed the *“centurion’s servant”*

Only **Luke** records this particular miracle which was one of three **resurrection** miracles performed by **Christ**. The other two being the **raising of the daughter of Jairus**, and the **raising of Lazarus**. When **Christ raised the daughter of Jairus**, she was still in the bed where she had died a few hours earlier. When **Christ raised the only son of a widow**, he is in a coffin on the way to the grave, and when **Christ raised Lazarus** he was already in the grave, having been dead four days. These varying lengths of time that these individuals had been dead, reveal that **CHRIST CAN RAISE THE DEAD REGARDLESS!** This serves as a reminder; that **Christ** can save a sinner no matter how old he or she is, or how deep they are in sin! Certainly the most profound of all the miracles performed during **Christ’s** earthly ministry are those in which He brought the dead to life!

I. THERE IS A PICTURE OF NEED

① ***She Had A Sorrowful Past:***

This is stated in **verse 12** *“and she was a widow”* She had already experienced the death and funeral of her husband.

② ***She Had A Very Painful Present:***

This also is stated in **verse 12** *“there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother”* Once again she is faced with the death of a loved one. **SHE IS ATTENDING THE FUNERAL OF HER ONLY SON!** It is a **heartbreaking** and **pitiful** scene filled with **lamentation**, **distress**, **misery**, **agony**, **grief**, **pain**, **disappointment**, and **affliction!** It is a scene of **trouble**, **difficulty**, and **trial!**

③ ***She Had A Bleak Future:***

This is also stated in **verse 12** “*there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow*” Already “*a widow*” and now her “*only son*” and only means of support is gone! Humanly speaking, her future appeared to be one of dread, loneliness, poverty, and hopelessness! **THIS WOMAN WAS IN DIRE STRAITS! SHE IS IN DESPERATE AND URGENT NEED!**

What is recorded here is all the result of **sin** entering the world! All that is decaying, all failure, all disappointment, all weakness, all sadness, all pain, all trouble, all discomfort, all fear and confusion are the terrible and horrific results of **sin!**

II. WHAT CHRIST DID ON THIS OCCASION

① ***Jesus Came To Where She Was:***

Though this “*widow woman*” had “*much people.....with her*” Each step of that funeral procession brought this “*widow woman*” closer to the cemetery where she would bury her “*only son*” Each step of that funeral procession brought her closer to a very dreadful moment! The friends of this “*widow woman*” though they cared, and desired to be a comfort and blessing to her, **THEY COULD NOT PREVENT THE ARRIVAL AT THAT CEMETERY AND THE BURIAL OF HER ONLY SON! But unknown to her, each step of that funeral procession brought her closer to a life-giving Savior (Isaiah 65:1, 24).**

② ***Jesus Saw Her:***

The reason that **Jesus** headed to **Nain** when He did was for this “*widow*” and her “*only son*” and for the “*much people*” Notice **verse 13** “*And when the Lord saw her*” this means much more than “*he caught a glimpse of her*” He “*saw her*” He **knew** and **understood** what she was thinking! He **knew** and **understood** her suffering, her faintness, and weariness! He **knew** and **understood** her fear, her sorrow, her distress, her misery, her agony, her grief, her pain, her disappointment, and emptiness! **HE IS THERE WITHOUT BEING INVITED! HE IS THERE AS EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS, AND HE IS THERE TO BRING RELIEF AND JOY TO HER SOUL!**

③ ***He Felt Compassion Toward Her:***

“*he had compassion on her*” (**verse 13**). There are **five** other **miracles of Christ**, where His “*compassion*” is specifically mentioned. The **feeding of over 5000 (Matthew 14:14)**, the **feeding of over 4000 (Matthew 15:32)**, the **healing of two blind men (Matthew 20:34)**, the **healing of the leper (Mark 1:41)**, and the **liberation of the demon possessed man of Gadra (Mark 5:19)**. In the miracle of **raising the widow’s son**, he meets the mournful funeral procession accompanying the young man to his grave, He “*saw*” the “*widow*” and “*He had compassion on her*” **Christ** fully knowing everything about this woman’s past, present, and future, felt within Himself “*a feeling of*

pity, sympathy, empathy, concern, and love” toward this woman! The “*compassion*” of **Christ** is “*Divine mercy and a communication of that mercy*”

④ **He Spoke To Her A Word Of Comfort:**

“*Weep not*” (**verse 13**). He was not condemning or rebuking her for weeping and expressing sorrow, but He was assuring her “*that everything was going to be okay, because He was about to remove the point of sorrow*”

⑤ **He Touched The Casket And Spoke To The Dead:**

“*And He came and touched the bier: (verse 14)*. **Jesus** reaches forth and touches the casket, a sign that HE WAS ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING! As a result; “*they that bare (carried) him (the son of the widow) stood still*” This shows the **power** and **authority** of **Christ**, and that the people of the funeral procession, were now anticipating **Christ** to do something! With the entire funeral procession at a standstill **Jesus** said “*Young man, I (Jesus) say unto thee, (with power and authority over death) Arise*” (**verse 14**). WITH THAT WORD THERE WAS THE IMPARTATION OF LIFE! In all three **miracles of resurrection** that **Christ** performed HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THE DEAD (**Luke 7:14; 8:54; John 11:43**).

⑥ **There Was A Wonderful Change:**

Jesus, the very One who spoke the universe into existence, and upholds all things by the word of His power, speaks unto the dead “*And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak*” (**verse 15**). HE SPEAKS LIFE TO DEAD SINNERS! This “*young man*” that “*was dead*” HE DID NOT SIT UP AND SPEAK IN ORDER TO OBTAIN LIFE, BUT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN GIVEN LIFE! When the “*young man.....sat up, and began to speak*” IT WAS THE RESULT OF LIFE GIVEN TO HIM! This “*young man.....that was dead*” has had **life graciously imparted to him**, and as a result of the **miracle of life** “*he sat up, and began to speak*” THERE WAS A CHANGE AND THE CHANGE WAS IMMEDIATELY MANIFEST AND VISIBLE!

⑦ **There Was A Happy Reunion:**

“*And He delivered him to his mother*” (**verse 15**). This woman’s **distress, agony, misery, and grief** is now turned to **joy** and **exultation!** WHAT A REUNION IT MUST HAVE BEEN! There is a soon coming day, when the **Lord** is going to issue a call to His people dead and alive, AND THERE WILL BE A GREAT REUNION DAY (**II Thessalonians 2:1**).

This is a wonderful picture of the grace and power of **Christ** in saving a soul:

There Is The Sad And Hopeless Condition Of Everyone Apart From Christ-"a dead man" (verse 12).

Jesus Came To The Dead Man-"And He came" (verse 14).

Jesus Came Into Actual Contact With The Dead Man-"and touched the bier" (verse 14).

Jesus Spoke Directly To The Dead Man-"Young man, I say unto thee" (verse 14).

There Was The Impartation Of Life-"he that was dead" (verse 15).

There Was A Manifestation Of Life-"sat up, and began to speak" (verse 15).

There Was Great Rejoicing-"And He delivered him to his mother" (verse 15).

God Was Reverenced And Glorified (verse 16).

The fact that this particular **miracle of Christ** followed the **healing of the centurion's servant** is a manifestation that He is willing to reach to every spectrum of society, **rich** and **poor, high** and **low**, and **men** and **women!**
