

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Widow of Nain's Son**

Last week...Jesus moves on from the SoM and begins His 2<sup>nd</sup> preaching tour in the Galilee  
The remarkable faith of the Roman centurion of Capernaum and  
the power and authority of Jesus

This time...the raising from the dead of the son of the widow of Nain

We will be in Luke 7 again

[ read v11-17 ]

Setting: Nain

city....walled with a gate (vs a village)...named “fair” or “pleasant”  
tribal inheritance of Issachar (Gen 49:14-15...”a land that was pleasant”)  
bordering Galilee and Samaria  
about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum...a day’s journey

[ Nain Map 1 and 2 ]

North: Mount Hermon

West: Valley of Jezreel, Nazareth, Mount Carmel

East: Endor

South: Shunem

Resurrections from the dead in OT, about 925 years prior to Jesus’ arrival in Nain in Luke 7

Elijah...1 Kings 17:17-24

- son of the widow of Zarephath
- during 3½ years of no rain
- the widow and Elijah are distraught
- widow testifies that Elijah is a man of God

Elisha...2 Kings 4:18-37

- son of the woman of Shunem...located on the southern slope of the hill,  
opposite Nain

a man buried with the bones of Elisha...2 Kings 13:20-21

v11-12 the day after...many of His disciples...much people of the city:

Given the distance of 25 miles...a day's journey...Jesus and the multitude following Him would have left Capernaum on His 2<sup>nd</sup> Preaching Tour of the Galilee the morning after He healed the servant of the centurion in Capernaum, arriving in Nain in the evening/sunset... the time when Jewish funerals took place.

Outside the gate of Nain the 2 multitudes, 2 groups of people, converge

1. following Jesus from Capernaum
2. the funeral procession for the son of the widow

This is a heart-wrenching scene of poverty and tragedy,  
the scene of Jesus' next Spirit-led appointment:

- the death of a child is arguably the most intense of human pain and suffering
- the widow's only means of support, after the death of her husband, has been her only son, who is now also dead
- like Naomi (widow, both sons died), this widow is in desperate need of a Kinsman-Redeemer from this day forth

"Yesterday" we heard the sorrow and remarkable faith of the Roman centurion that marveled the Lord/Supreme Authority of life and death

"Today" we hear the anguish and heartbreak of a widow and mother that touches the heart of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man

"Yesterday" Jesus had compassion on one near death

"Today" Jesus will have compassion on one who separated from a loved one by death

We will again see the heart of God, Who

- comforts those who mourn
- is the God of widows and the fatherless

Most of us can only imagine the grief of the widow...some of us can

- her desperate clinging to her only treasure, her only earthly hope
- her agonizing farewell
- her intense sorrow and emotional melt-down
- the sight of her only son lying face up and uncovered in a "wicker basket", in full view, not in a closed wooden coffin

Had the widow or anyone in Nain called for Jesus to come and heal her son?

No

Had the widow any faith that Jesus of Nazareth could heal her son?

None recorded

Had Jesus just “happened upon” this funeral procession?

No, He was always led by the all-knowing Spirit of God

v13-14 Weep not...Arise:

Anyone who has buried a child must rejoice in these two verses!

Anyone who has mourned the death of a loved one must also

Jesus Christ

1. saw...He sees everything, He misses nothing
2. had compassion...He is most kind and all-caring
3. came...He is not aloof but took the initiative to make things right
4. touched...the Personal touch of God on the undeserving
5. spoke...the words of God from the heart of God, the power of God
  - a. to the widow: Be comforted
  - b. to the dead son: Wake up

His primary concern was...the widow, the one mourning and in need of what only

He can provide...as her Kinsman-Redeemer

He, the God of all comfort, is here...for her

She who is mourning will be comforted (Matt 5:4)

Without

- being asked/summoned
- waiting for a profession of faith from the widow or anyone else for that matter

Jesus came to her...saying something no one says at a funeral – “Weep not”

In her despair, did she recognize Him as the Servant of God Who came to bear our sorrows?

Then, touching the bier, not defiled by the ultimate uncleanness – touching a dead body – He said

1. Young man...addressing the dead son
2. I say unto you...”Thus saith the LORD” of a prophet bettered by the very words of God spoken by God Himself
  - a. 14x in SoM
  - b. Ch 5:18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44
  - c. Ch 6:2, 5, 16, 25, 29
3. Arise...Wake up, Live

Notice the brevity of Jesus' words...that had the power of life over death  
Notice His calmness...He had everything under control  
Elijah and Elisha were highly agitated, crying out to the One Who was  
in control

Did she, or those carrying her son, or those in the funeral procession...  
or even those following Jesus, fresh off the healing of the centurion's  
servant...  
have any idea or anticipation of what would happen next?!

v15 sat up...speak...delivered:

When did the young man arise?  
Immediately, as if he had just been awoken from a nap.

What did he say?  
We don't know because it is not recorded but after being awakened from a  
deep sleep, what questions do we ask?

Where am I?  
What am I doing here?  
Why are all you people here?  
You folks I know, but who are you people?  
Why are you crying, Mom?  
Who are You?  
Oh, I had the most amazing dream...I wish I could remember it.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, could raise someone from the dead as easily as we  
can wake someone from a nap

And He did so in the presence of 2 multitudes of people!  
Everyone was in the open, the body was in the open...every eye saw the power of  
God.

Then, Jesus, having given life to her son, gave her son back to the widow.  
The son was delivered from temporary death, the widow from despair.  
Imagine the tenderness of the exchange!  
Jesus the Kinsman-Redeemer, is the link between the widow and her son...  
the bridge between life and death

What would later happen to the widow's son?  
He would die.  
Jesus raised him from the dead on this appointed day to make it known  
(to 2 multitudes and those they told) that He came to conquer  
death...the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

Jesus did not raise the widow's son from the dead

- from a distance or silently to hide His Identity
- to boost His popularity
- to create a furor so the people would exalt Him

Rather than “reacting” to the faith of someone, Jesus initiated the greatest of miracles...resurrection from the dead...to bring forth faith in many

He did what the Father sent Him to do...which included this...

to reveal the Father to Israel, to call Israel to repentance and to saving faith in His Messiah

Miracles do not save us from eternal death...faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ saves from eternal death

(In the very last days, there will be lying signs and wonders/miracles)

Eternal life is in Him...the gift of His eternal life comes by grace thru faith

(both His, both gifts to us) for whosoever believes in Him

The purpose of His miracles was to

- confirm the truth of His words and His works
- cultivate faith in Him

This is the first of 3 recorded times when Jesus raised someone from the dead.

The others:

- Jairus' daughter (Capernaum)
- Lazarus (Bethany, outside of Jerusalem)

Both after intense appeals to Him to come and do what only He had the power to do

Both summoned in the same manner as the widow's son

Then...Himself

John 10:17-18

Jesus' raising the 3 from the dead prepared the people for His resurrection

Resurrection...victory over eternal death

- central theme of every sermon in Acts (also, Acts 9:40)
- central tenant of the Christian faith
- the promise of God
  - John 5:21-29
  - John 6:40
  - John 11:25-26
  - Acts 24:15
  - 2 Cor 4:14

v16-17 great prophet is risen...God has visited:

So how did the 2 multitudes respond to the power of God manifested right in front of their faces?

1. fear...amazed and terrified of such unexpected supernatural power
2. glorified God...what every miracle should elicit
3. exclamations
  - a. A great prophet is risen up among us
    - i. ala Elijah and Elisha (on the other side of the hill)
    - ii. by the multitude from Nain (?)
  - b. God has visited His people
    - i. Is 7:14, Matt 1:23
    - ii. By the multitude following Jesus (?)

The exclamations fall short of identifying Jesus...

“This is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God!”

No one in either multitude has yet grasped the totality of Who Jesus is:

- The Prophet (Deut 18:18-19)
- The Messiah, the Son of God
- The Kinsman-Redeemer, the Seed of the woman
- I AM (His Statements are in the near future)
- The Miracle of miracles

Jesus' fame spread like wild fire...south to Judea and Samaria, north to Tyre and Sidon, all around the Galilee

Whose lives were radically changed that day?

Every person present

Whose lives were radically changed forever (1 John 5:11-12)?

idk

Note: today Nain is desolate

The healing of the centurion's servant and the raising from the dead of the widow of Nain's son are very different

Centurion

initiated, pleading for Jesus' help  
professed a remarkable faith  
had high hopes  
Jesus never met  
servant was near death  
Jesus healed from a distance  
servant healed in private

Widow

Jesus initiated, never asked to help  
no profession of faith...gift of faith  
had no hope, only despair  
Jesus met  
son was already dead  
Jesus touched  
son raised in public

Take-aways

1. No formula can be applied to how God works  
Yet there is a common denominator: Jesus Christ
  - had compassion
  - Lord of all...even death
  - Life Incarnate

Since there is no formula for how the Lord works...

- do not impose one
- do not try to figure one out...only the Lord knows what He is going to do

Do not pray "directionally"

Just pray...and be amazed, very amazed...ready to praise Him when He acts according to His perfect (unexpected) will

2. This account “embodies” the Gospel

The Lord has compassion

The Lord initiates

The Lord gives the gift of faith (faith is a spiritual gift; 1 Cor 12)

The Lord raises from the dead, breaking the chains of death

Share the Gospel, invitation

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23

John 3:16

John 4:10, 14 Jesus is The Gift; His faith, grace come with Him (Gal 3)

John 1:12

1 John 5:11-12

Rom 10:13

Since God cannot fail...

since the Lord can raise the dead...

since the Lord raised Himself...

He has conquered death

Eternal life is available to all...by faith

3. How compassionate are we?

Do we really see and hear others?

Do we feel the pain of others?

Are we willing to investigate and help, even at the expense of Self (love)?

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...  
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song