

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

RAISING THE DEAD

PART 3

The Widow's son

READ LUKE 7:11-17

INTRODUCTION

It is a rarity to see Jesus raise someone to life who was dead. Rare and yet, it happened more than a couple times which is impressive still. There is an interesting statement being made by Jesus as He raised anyone from the dead: He was God. There were many people who were able to "perform miracles" or magic tricks. There were others who claimed to be sent by God and they said and did things that would cause a crowd to form. Jesus was different though. He worked in a different way and for different purposes.

Miracles are something that the people who followed Jesus around were used to seeing. That was one reason why they continued to follow Him. They wanted to see what He would do next. This is why He got frustrated with them because He was not a circus performer. He tried, often, to tell them and to show them that He was God. Raising this young man up from the dead was proof that He was God and that He had the power of God to give life. He regularly showed the people that He was working on a different level than a mere prophet.

There was also always a specific purpose to Jesus raising someone from the dead. That purpose was not so that Jesus could receive accolades or make money. His purpose was to glorify God and cause others to glorify God. The people understood that He was showing God's power and they glorified Him as "God's very presence". This is a big deal because it is another instance where Jesus shows the people that He is not just a man, He is God. There was compassion that Jesus showed to the mother. There was empathy and care. He knew the consequences and showed her and the people that God not only can raise the dead but that He is also compassionate.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many times can you think of where Jesus raised the dead to life? What is the significance of this event? Why should it cause us to be encouraged today?
2. How would the mother have been affected by all of this? Did she look to Jesus for this miracle or was it solely on Him? Do we look to Jesus for this kind of miracle today? Should we?
3. What was different about the way Jesus performed His miracles from anyone else? What was His intention? What can we take away from His miracles being 2,000+ years removed from them?
4. What is important about a miracle glorifying God? Why not glorify self? Why not just do miracles for the good of the miracle?
5. Do you think that miracles are still happening today? Why or why not? Should we look for miracles? Why or why not?

WRAP UP

Jesus was always able to glorify God in everything that He did. He was so much more than just a good teacher. He is God and He proved that in His actions as well as His words. We are to follow Him and become more like Him because He gives us the perfect standard to follow. He cares deeply and is stirred to affection and we are to be the same way. Let us pray that God uses us and that we are ready for His presence to show up anywhere at any time.