

STORY

The Young Man of Nain - Luke 7:11-17

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I know that You have been given all power over things in heaven and on earth. I also remember how You instructed your disciples to feed Your lambs. Please grant me Your Spirit to rightly show the pupils entrusted into my care that You indeed have power over all things. Sins and short-comings and even the grave no longer hold any terrors for many of us because of Your gracious redemptive work. May I never forget to offer thanks. In Your saving name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

bier\coffin - not a closed box, such as we have today, but rather an open platform. The body was usually covered with a black shroud, or cloth.

OUTER AIM

Jesus raises the young man of Nain from the dead.

INNER AIM

Jesus's Word of Life has the power over death.

BACKGROUND

The raising from the dead of the young man at Nain is one of three such resurrection miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Luke is the only Evangelist to record this miracle. Matthew and Mark write of the raising of Jairus's daughter, and John tells the account of Jesus's raising of Lazarus. Each of these resurrection miracles of Jesus is in some ways similar to those performed by Old Testament prophets, but differ in one important way. Old Testament prophets carried out their work in the Lord's name and by His power, often exerting themselves while being used as God's instruments. Jesus's miracles occur immediately through the Almighty power of His Word. They demonstrate His power over death. A natural focal point of this Bible story is therefore the power of Jesus's Word.

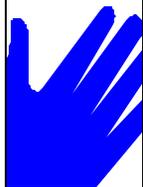
Below are notes on each verse of the account:

V.11

- ▶ "The day after" refers to the short time following Jesus's healing of the centurion's servant recorded earlier in the chapter 7.
- ▶ Jesus was quite popular at this time in His ministry and was attracting large crowds wherever He went.
- ▶ The village of Nain is in southern Galilee, 5 miles southwest of Nazareth, 25 miles southwest of Capernaum.
- ▶ This town of Nain is not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture.
- ▶ Nain was built on the slope of a hill and most likely had only one gate.

V.12

- ▶ Cities in those days had gates for protection, to control what came in and what went out of a town.
- ▶ As Jesus entered the city with His large following of life, He met a large funeral procession of death.
- ▶ A dead man was being carried out of the city to be buried was the Jewish custom (to have a tomb inside the city was a defilement).
- ▶ Sepulcher graves hewn into the hillside have been found to the southeast of Nain.
- ▶ The fact that he was the only son of a widow makes the mourning all the more poignant.
- ▶ The Greek word used seems to suggest that this was not just the widow's only son, but her only



child as well.

v.13

- ▶ Jesus felt “compassion” (pity, sympathy) for this widow and mother, in a distinctly human way.
- ▶ His instruction to her, “Do not weep,” would indicate that she was visibly crying over the loss of her child.
- ▶ We may often speak those words, “Don’t cry,” but Jesus spoke them as a remedy to remove the reason for her sorrow.
- ▶ Luke refers to Jesus as “Lord,” one who has the authority to forgive sins and has the power over death itself.

V.14

- ▶ Jesus’s words, “Young man, I say to you, ‘Arise,’” indicate the age of the man as relatively young, perhaps only a teenager; someone you wouldn’t expect to die.
- ▶ The Jews did not use closed coffins; the coffin was probably an open box, or perhaps something similar to a stretcher.
- ▶ This resurrection is similar to an Old Testament account of Elijah’s raising a young man from the dead (I Kings 17:17-24).

V.15

- ▶ The “dead” man immediately began to do things only the living can do, sitting and speaking.
- ▶ Jesus gave the young man back to his mother out of love and concern for her. (Elijah in a similar manner presented the raised boy to his mother in the I Kings account.)

V.16

- ▶ The crowd was awestruck and praised God for such a miracle, but failed to see Jesus as the Messiah, thinking Him rather to be a great prophet, like those of the old Testament.
- ▶ He was perhaps called a “great” prophet by the people because He performed the miracle with words only.

V.17

- ▶ Word of this miracle spread quickly throughout the area, causing an even greater following for Jesus.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to suffer and die for our sins. We know that You have given Jesus all power in heaven and on earth. Help us to remember that Jesus is able to keep all harm and danger away from us. Give us trusting hearts that cling to Jesus’s promise to be with us always, especially in the hour of our death, after which we will wake to be with You forever. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

The story should be told in the words of the teacher using appropriate background information from the Background section. The Middle and Upper Levels could read the story from the student folder.

Activity One - Draw a face that shows how the people in the story felt.

How do you think the mother felt about her son’s death? (Sad)

How do you think the mother felt when Jesus made him alive? (Happy)

How did the crowd of people feel when Jesus made the young man alive? (Surprised)

APPLICATIONS

1. Funerals are a necessary part of our lives in this sinful world. We do not attend funerals to honor the dead, nor just to remember the one who’s died. We attend to show our support for the living relatives. We sympathize with each other and know we will miss the individual that has died - but we do not despair. For that loved one is now with the Lord and on the last day Jesus will restore him with all believers.

2. Emphasize how this young man was probably about their age. He died. We often think as young people that we will live forever, and may even take foolish risks with our lives. Young people do die, however. Are we ready to die? Live each day keeping in mind that it could be your last day. Confess your sins and be comforted by the forgiveness Christ daily provides through His Word.
3. It is important for us to remember the Lord's compassion. Jesus not only "feels sorry" for us, but He truly knows and understands our sorrows and troubles and wants to help us with them. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) The Lord Jesus is truly the only One who can take away our greatest problem, sin. It was through His sacrifice on the cross that Jesus defeated Satan, paid for our sins, and conquered death itself. Even when we must pass through the valley of the shadow of death we know Jesus will be there to guide us to His heavenly pastures.
4. Emphasize the power of Jesus's Word. It is the Word that brought us to faith in Baptism. We were raised from spiritual deadness by the life-giving Word - an even greater miracle than that which took place at Nain. It is the Word that forgives our sins in the Lord's Supper. It is the Word that keeps this world under God's protective care. It will be Jesus's word that will bring all things to an end. It is His word which will call us out of our graves unto life eternal. The Word overcomes Satan, condemns sin, cuts to the heart causing Godly sorrow and repentance. The Word helps us overcome temptations and sinful thoughts and desires (Matt.4). It is the Word which give us wisdom, strength, and guidance in this dark world (PS. 119:105).

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work* or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. John 11:26

Because I live, you will live also. John 14:19*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me. Ps. 23:4*

Middle any of the above and...

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Matt. 28:18*

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him to all who call upon Him in truth. Ps. 145:18

I kill and I make alive. Deut. 32:39

Upper any of the above and...

O Death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:55-56

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, not things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38-39

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. John 11:25-26*

HYMN CHOICES

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (TLH #193:1,4-6)

"Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care" (TLH #527:1-3,5)

"Who Knows When Death May Overtake Me" (TLH #598:1,6,8,9)