

Raising of Widow's Son at Nain

Luke 7:11-17

Widow's Son Raised

Text:

Luke 7:11-17,

11. 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 coffin, and those carrying it 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.

Commentary:

I. Nain, judging by its archaeological remains, was once a city of considerable size.

A. Nain's location was on the northwestern edge of “Little Mount Herman” where the land falls into the plain of Esdraelon.

B. In Luke's day Nain was a city. Today it is only a small village.

II. Remarkably Luke is the only Gospel writer who recorded this resurrection of the widow's son of Nain.

A. How many other truly wondrous deeds of Jesus were not recorded at all?

B. John 21:25, Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

III. As Jesus approached Nain a large funeral procession was leaving the city on its way to the cemetery.

A. The deceased was the only son of a widow.

B. Jesus, when he saw the bereaved mother, had compassion on her and told her, “Weep not.”

C. 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

IV. Jesus touched the casket as the pallbearers stopped and ordered “Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.”

A. Touching a casket/dead body caused a person to become ceremonially unclean.

B. It took more than a dead body to defile Jesus.

C. Essentially this same command was given at the resurrection of Jairus’s daughter. Mark 5:41, He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cumi!” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).

V. The son of the widow of Nain immediately sat up and began to speak. Jesus presented the resurrected young man to his mother.

A. The power of the Son of God is truly infinite.

B. Those raised by Jesus from the dead were also restored to full health.

VI. All who had heard and had seen these wondrous events were filled with fear and glorified God.

A. The multitude concluded, “A great prophet is risen among us.”

B. “God has visited his people,” they proclaimed.

C. When in the presence of God thoughtful men fear. Jesus is God!

VII. The report of this wondrous deed was spread throughout the whole of Judaea and all the region round about.

A. This included all of Palestine; that is, the entire domain of the Herods, both Antipas and Agrippa I.

B. This resurrection from the dead shocked the eastern part of the Roman Empire.

C. Nain was near Nazareth where his own hometown neighbors had tried to kill him. What effect did this miracle have on those Nazarenes?

VIII. Not one of those Jesus raised from the dead (Jairus’ daughter, widow’s son of Nain, Lazarus) left any personal word of their deaths, the events between their deaths and resurrections, and their resurrections.

A. It was not their role to bring light and immortality to light.

B. This was left to Jesus through the gospel.

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Questions

1. As Jesus approached the town of _____ a _____ person was being carried out, the only _____ of his _____ who was a _____.

2. Jesus told her, “_____.” He _____ the _____ and said, “_____ , I say to you, _____!”

3. “The _____ sat up and began to _____, and Jesus gave him back to his _____.”

4. Did touching the coffin cause Jesus to be ceremonially unclean? _____ If not, why not? _____

5. Nain was once a _____ of _____ and was located on the _____ edge of “_____” where the land falls into the _____ of _____. Nain was located near _____ where his hometown _____ had tried earlier to _____ him.

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