

YOUNG MAN, I SAY UNTO THEEE, ARISE!

Luke 7:14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

In the story of the raising from the dead of the young man of Nain, we read that this was her only son. No one can understand this love and pain more than God who gave his own Son. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God has no other Son like the Son who is of his Spirit, his own word. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). This message today is for all those who have children who do not serve the Lord. To begin with, God expects us to love, pray and weep for our children like this widow of Nain – as if we only have one child. How terrible and fearful it is when our children do not love the Lord or serve him. The reason why Israel demanded a King was because the sons of Samuel did not walk in the ways of God. “And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (I Samuel 8:5). There is the promise in the miracle of Nain that those who weep for their only child will attract the attention of Jesus.

The Bible also records that the woman of Nain was a widow. God has always been the champion of the widows. “He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment” (Deuteronomy 10:18). Her misery and suffering was amplified by the loss of her husband and now the loss of her only son. Misery indeed loves company! Crises often come in twos and threes. When the Devil attacks, he wishes to overwhelm by a series of devastations, as was the case with the misery he unleashed on Job. Three times it says in Job chapter one “while he was yet speaking” (Job 1:16-18). He tried this tactic with the wife of Lot and succeeded. “Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die” (job 2:9). The woman of Nain was a widow, but God is the God of Sarah whose womb he opened. He is the God who can plant a fetus in a dead womb and raise a dead young man.

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

***Luke 7:11** And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.*

Nain is situated approximately 30 miles to the southwest of Capernaum, with an elevation of 700 feet above sea level. Consequently, reaching Nain involves a challenging ascent from Capernaum. Walking from Capernaum to Nain would have necessitated a journey lasting at least one or two days. No journey is too arduous for the Lord when it comes to blessing his people. Consider how the Lord timed his journey to Nain to coincide with the funeral procession. Had he come a bit late, it would have been very difficult if not impossible to convince the mourners to dig up the corpse of the young man. How often have we heard that God is never late – he is always on time. There appears to have been no other reason the Lord went to Nain – it was only to raise this dead young man. Many of his disciples and much people went with, the text records. Jesus will not always tell us the purpose of his journey; all we need to do is be patient and know the Lord is travelling to do good.

All those who patiently travel with the Lord will witness mighty and glorious acts which will solidify their faith. Had he told them his mission, some would have tried to convince him there are many other widows who need their children to be raised from the dead. Remember Mary and Martha! Bless their hearts but they were disappointed because they felt the Lord should have left everything the moment he heard Lazarus was sick. Listen, the Lord is no respecter of persons. This is why the Lord showed no favoritism to his own family – he is God of all those who fear him and seek him. In fact, the Lord expected those who were near him such as Mary and Martha to learn to wait longer than others who were complete strangers to him. We who have walked with the Lord for decades must pray for grace to understand this. “whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required” (Luke 12:48). This lesson is so important that King Saul lost the kingdom because he could not wait on the Lord.

***1Sam 13:8** And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.*

***1Sam 13:9** And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.*

***1Sam 13:10** And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.*

Nain means “charming or beautiful”. That day, however, there was nothing beautiful in Nain for the widow woman. Soo, however, her mourning would be turned into joy and

beauty. “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).

Jesus makes our Nain into beauty. Most importantly, Jesus shows us he does not want a young life to be wasted. A young life has so much potential for Jesus. The Lord himself was young when he started his ministry, the apostles were young, and the apostle Paul reminded Timothy and Titus about this great blessing:

***1 Timothy 4:12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

***Titus 2:15** These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

God has given this power to young people. Do not let anyone look down upon your youth. Use it boldly for the glory of Jesus. The Devil knows the power of young people. “I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father” (I John 2:13). The Devil does everything in his power to make sure the young stay dead spiritually. He is terrified of young people who love Jesus because it is written that they have overcome the wicked one. Are you crying for your son or daughter, mother and father? Many young people are already spiritually dead; their parents mourn for them. Have faith to see Jesus coming from Capernaum. He will not allow your only son to be buried – just as he did not allow Abraham to kill his only son, and God did not allow the tomb to claim his only begotten Son. Jesus is making his way from Capernaum to Nain. “And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise” (Luke 7:14). Because Jesus is the one and only God alone, he could say, “I say unto thee”. The Devil said, “I say unto thee die”, but the Lord said, “I say unto thee, Arise”. Praise Jesus! The young man rose up and immediately began to speak. “And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother” (Luke 7:15). Perhaps the young man spoke many foolish things before he died. I do not advise anyone to listen in on the conversation of young people on social media these days. You may lose hope in the future of the church and the nation. Let us look to Jesus to raise them up from the dead and we can sure they will speak wonderful things about the glory of God. His speech must have been different; a new life and a new birth through Jesus gives a new speech. May the Lord Jesus cause our dead young people to arise!