

Session 5: Raising the Dead

Case studies of Jesus, M.D. A widow's son, a ruler's daughter

The Dead Ones -

One of the hardest nights of my young career as a medical student was when a man came in who had been riding a motorcycle and had been run over by a tractor trailer. He came in alive and we worked all night to save his life, giving him emergency surgery and many units of blood as his bleeding was endless. Unfortunately we lost him despite going

5a. Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead (Luke 7:11-18)

Soon afterward he went to a city called Na'in, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. - Luke 7:11-17 RSV

Jesus rapidly ended the funeral. He and his many followers just happen to walk upon this procession of sorrow. He saw the widow in great sorrow. Not only had her husband died but now her son.

The widow was now completely alone

It was a sight to **awaken sympathy**. The deceased was the only son of his mother, and she a widow. The lonely mourner was following to the grave her sole earthly support and comfort.¹⁹⁵

Jesus interrupts the funeral

Jesus decided to interrupt the funeral procession and raise the young man from the dead. Suddenly, the procession of sorrow became a procession of rejoicing. The widow was amazed. **Raising the dead appeared to be a simple matter for Jesus**. And this time He required no faith for the healing.

Jesus tells the widow not to weep

¹⁹⁵ White, Ellen. Desire of Ages. p 318.3

Don't weep! He said to the widow of Nain. He told people not to weep more than once when contending with the dead and even when mourners were weeping for Him as He was going to His place of execution.¹⁹⁶

5b. Jesus raised the ruler's daughter from the dead (Matthew 9:18-26)

While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." So Jesus arose and followed him, and so [did] His disciples. ... When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went out into all that land. - Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26 NKJV

Why does God make us go through the death process?

One of the most painful things we go through is losing a loved one. But Jesus urged His followers that the person was not dead but sleeping.¹⁹⁷ The apostles maintained the same sentiments.¹⁹⁸

1. To understand more immediate results of sin.
2. To understand the idea of dying daily to sin and the born again experience.
3. To ultimately understand what the second death will be.

Two resurrections

John 5 speaks of two resurrections, one to life and another to death. John 5:24-30.

First death is not final

Jesus did not want us to have a sense of finality with death. That's not to say that we are to believe that we go straight to heaven when we die as that's not what the Bible teaches.

For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.- Ecclesiastes 9:5

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will

¹⁹⁶ Luke 8:52, Luke 23:28

¹⁹⁷ Matthew 9:24.

¹⁹⁸ 1 Thess 4:14, 1 Corinthians 15:51.

sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV

Sometimes God allows loved ones to die for reasons we don't understand

Story of Christian woman, David's great grandmother, who was cursed in a village for chasing the witch doctor's dog after it stole her cooked chicken right out of her open oven. The witch doctor said she was going to die at midnight. Later that day she stepped on a bad plank in her home the plank came up and hit her in the abdomen. She slowly weakened and then died at midnight that night. (Story told by David Bowers, MD at Southbay SDA church, Chattanooga, TN.)

The righteous perishes, And no man takes [it] to heart; Merciful men [are] taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil. - Isaiah 57:1

Job's children die and Job loses his health because Satan attacks him.

We don't always need to know why during this life.

Don't glorify death

Jesus was disturbed by the existence of hired mourners.¹⁹⁹ They still exist today in China and other Asian countries.²⁰⁰

Jesus said to let the dead bury their own dead when a man wanted to bury his father after Jesus had called him to follow Him.²⁰¹

Believers mourn less

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you **sorrow as others who have no hope**. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive [and] remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with

¹⁹⁹ Matt 9:23. Professional mourners called moirologists, are compensated to lament or deliver a eulogy and help comfort and entertain the grieving family.

²⁰⁰ "I'm Paid To Mourn At Funerals (And It's A Growing Industry)" [cracked.com](https://www.cracked.com/personal-experiences-1994-i-am-professional-mourner-6-realities-my-job.html) March 16, 2021. <https://www.cracked.com/personal-experiences-1994-i-am-professional-mourner-6-realities-my-job.html>

²⁰¹ Luke 9:59-60

them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV

God has no pleasure in anyone who dies

Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!" - Ezekiel 18:31-32

God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked

"Say to them: '[As] I live,' says the Lord GOD, '**I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'" - Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV

We have the promise of living again

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. - John 11:25 (NKJV)

Faith and death have a relationship. Though they are dead yet shall they live.²⁰² Though you may die yet shall you live. Faith is acting upon the promise. If the promise says that you are going to live, then you are going to live. This is the execution of your belief. The promise is, thus you base your life on the fact of it.

If your spouse or family member tells you they will be at a certain place at a certain time for you to meet, you trust their promise. You show up at that place at the time appointed. How much more God's promise?

²⁰² God is the God of the living not the dead.