

Following Jesus

16, The Miracle of Resurrection

I. Message

a. Jesus, the “The Life-Giver” is activated by compassion

i. The widow of Nain’s son – **Luke 7:11-15** “And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain...12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow...**13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her,** and said unto her, Weep not. 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. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.”

1. As Jesus approaches, He meets a funeral procession leaving city
2. This was the only son of His mother
 - a. His mother was a widow
 - b. This was a desperate situation for a Jewish woman
 - i. Not only her grief as a mother
 - ii. But her long-term care was gone!
 1. There was no social net to catch a woman in this plight
 2. No legal rights
 3. She needed rescued!
3. Jesus was activated by compassion
 - a. **“13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her”**
 - i. He SAW her
 - ii. And He had compassion on her
 - iii. Sometimes we lose sight of Jesus’ kindness in the context of His power
 1. He not only felt compassion
 2. It moved Him to help hurting people

b. Jesus, the “The Life-Giver” is permeated by hope

- i. Sometime later, Jesus raises Jairus’ daughter - **Mark 5:21–43, Matthew 9:18–26**
- ii. **Luke 8:41–55** “And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus’ feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: 42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him...49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. 50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him,

saying, **Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.** 51 And when he came into the house...he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.”

1. Jairus was a synagogue leader
2. He heard of Jesus and His power to heal, so He came to Him
3. He begged Jesus to come to his home and heal His daughter
4. BUT, the girl dies WHILE Jesus is following Jairus home
 - a. The only One that COULD help...doesn't
 - b. Jesus took His time in coming
 - i. Jairus was probably losing His trust of God
 - ii. Wondering if Jesus was the real deal
 - iii. And a little put out at the lady that had delayed Jesus!
5. But none of this even phases Jesus
 - a. “50... **Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.**”
 - b. Don't worry about it, I'm not worried.
 - c. Why are you worried? **I've totally got this**
6. Jesus gives hope in hopeless situations

c. Jesus, the “The Life-Giver” is motivated by God's glory

- i. Lazarus – John 11:1-44 “Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany...3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. 4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, **but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby...**40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, **thou shouldest see the glory of God?** 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, **that they may believe...**”
- ii. Lazarus was Jesus' personal friend
 1. Jesus actually **let him die** so that God would receive more glory
 - a. V.6 – He waited 2 days to go
 - b. For a reason:
 - i. V.15, 42 – That they might be believe
 - ii. V.4, 40 – And that God might be glorified
 - c. This time, Jesus isn't confronted by a throng of people
 - d. Jesus isn't delayed by doing miracles for others
 - e. Jesus just hangs out a couple of days and lets his friend die!
 - i. Jesus delays
 - ii. Lazarus dies
 - iii. God gets glory!

d. Jesus, the “The Life-Giver” demonstrated His power by resurrecting

i. Jesus’ resurrection was unique

1. Predicted
 - a. Not only foreshadowed by the OT prophecies
 - b. But **He** told His disciples exactly what would happen
 - c. **John 2:19-22** “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.**”
2. Permanent
 - a. The first permanent resurrection – all the others died again
 - b. Jesus is still alive!
 - c. **Hebrews 7:25** “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he **ever liveth** to make intercession for them.”
3. Powerful
 - a. Self-powered – He raised Himself
 - b. What an incredible display of power!
 - c. **John 10:17-18** “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and **I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father.”

II. Conclusion

a. Jesus displayed all of these things together, in one place: on the CROSS!

- i. The Life-giver, at His weakest moment was physically (DYING)
- ii. At that “weak” moment, He demonstrated His compassion, gave hope, glorified God and displayed His power the more clearly than at any other moment!
 1. The One who no one seems to care about is full of compassion for others
 2. The One whose situation seems hopeless is bringing hope to millions!
 3. The One who is hanging in shame is bringing glory to the Father and to Himself through His salvation
 4. The One who seems so weak and frail, demonstrates the greatest power ever displayed

b. Applications for today

- i. Conclusion #1 – Do you need some compassion?
 1. His death and His resurrection power demonstrate His compassion for you!
 2. **Ephesians 2:4-6** “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath

quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

3. He is "rich in mercy" and He has "great love for you"

ii. Conclusion #2 – Do you need some hope?

1. His death and His resurrection power demonstrate the hope he wants to give you!

2. A lot of people, if honest, would say they feel hopeless

3. He has hope for you through the resurrection of Jesus!

4. **2 Corinthians 1:8-10** "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we **despaired even of life:** 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, **but in God which raiseth the dead:** 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;"

iii. Conclusion #3 – Do you need help with your unbelief?

1. His death and His resurrection power demonstrate how He wants to glorify the Father in your belief

2. **Romans 10:9** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,** thou shalt be saved"

a. He wants to save you

b. He wants you to believe

c. He'll even GIVE you the faith if you ask Him!

d. **Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

iv. Conclusion #4 – Do you need some of God's power in your life?

1. His death and His resurrection power demonstrate His power over sin, death, and hell!

2. He has the power to raise whomever He wants (He is the firstfruits)

3. **John 14:19** "...because I live, ye shall live also."