



# Miracles: Raising the Dead

Luke 7:11-17 1 Kings 17:7-9, 17-24 1 Cor 15:35-44

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In the Scriptures, miracles always support the Word of God. Miracles are “signs” that point to the Word. ***If Jesus, or one of the prophets or one of the Apostles, has the power to work a miracle, then what they say is true also.*** That is the main purpose of all miracles in the Bible:

## Miracles prove that the Word is true.

Today in our Gospel lesson, we heard the story of Jesus working a miracle. He raised a dead boy who was *in his coffin and on his way to the cemetery.*

It was a **DRAMATIC EVENT** --- a large crowd following Jesus meets the large funeral procession at the city gate. ***At the center of all these people was Jesus, the dead boy, and the grieving mother.***

The boy’s mother is a widow, and it literally says that her “**only begotten son**” had died. This woman had lost her husband, and now she has lost her *only begotten son*. She was all alone and grieving terribly. Remember, “GRIEF” is a *heavy burden*.

Jesus saw this mother’s grief and sorrow, and it says that His “*heart went out to her.*” It means that Jesus had *compassion* for her, literally the word is a powerful and graphic word picture that means that *Jesus’ stomach was twisted in knots* when He saw how much she was hurting; He was moved by her grief and sorrow. ***By using the word “compassion”, we are to understand that the death of this boy, and his mother’s sorrow, hurt Jesus also.***

**Jesus has compassion for you also.** When you go through difficult things, the Lord sees and knows and has compassion for you. His heart twists for you. The Lord’s compassion moves Him to action; and He helps you. He comes alongside of you and speaks to you through His powerful Word: He strengthens you, comforts you, and prays for you. **Jesus has compassion for you.**

**Jesus' compassion for the widow quickly moves Him to action.** In an unprecedented move, the Jewish Rabbi actually **touches** the dead body, and the Son of God **raises** the boy from the dead! *Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead boy sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

Remember, that **Miracles Prove that the Word is True.** And the end of this story it says this:

*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." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. LUKE 7:16-17*

This miracle paved the way for Jesus to teach and preach the Good News of salvation. The people understood that *He was a great prophet; that He was God who has come to help His people. If Jesus has the power to raise the dead, then His words are true and trustworthy also.*

**This miracle does *the same thing* for us today. As we hear about this miracle and believe that Jesus actually did raise the dead boy, we trust His Word and believe His promises to us.**

**The resurrection of this boy from Nain helps us to trust Jesus' promise that He will raise us from the dead on the Last Day.** Every one of us is just like the dead boy in Nain.

**Sin leaves us dead;  
sin leaves us without life, without hope,  
and with no chance of saving ourselves.**

Without Christ, we are *in the coffin* and *on our way to the cemetery* in sin and guilt! We need Jesus to have compassion on us and intervene on our behalf ---- otherwise we will all die in our sin and face the wrath of God in the final judgment.

**The Good News is that Jesus does intervene on your behalf!** Jesus has **COMPASSION** on you just like He did that widow in Nain. His stomach was *twisted on knots* to see you trapped in sin and death, so He left Heaven and became a man in order to make sure you will live forever with Him in His heavenly kingdom. He takes your sins to the cross where He is put to death. Three days later, He rose from the dead to give you life!

The truth is that it is  
not the widow's "only begotten son" who will die,  
but God's "Only Begotten Son" who will die  
for the sins of the world!

Jesus died *once and for all* people, including you! Jesus' death brings forgiveness and reconciliation with God; His resurrection brings life and salvation to everyone!

In the story, the widow's son is raised from the dead by the **Word of Jesus**. Jesus simply said, "*Young man, I say to you, get up!*" And the young man gets up! The power is in the **Word of Jesus**.

It happens the same way for you. **Jesus' Word** came to you in the water of Holy Baptism and gave you life. **Holy Baptism is your "Nain experience", where Jesus finds you "dead in sin" and speaks His powerful Word of Life!** In Holy Baptism you are raised *spiritually* from the dead; with the **GUARANTEED PROMISE** that He will raise you *physically* on the Last Day!

In Holy Baptism, it is AS IF Jesus said to you, "*Young man/woman, I say to you, get up!*" Baptism is the miracle of new life, baptism is **Living Water, where your sinful nature is drowned and buried with Christ, and a new creation arises and lives before God in righteousness and purity forever!** In holy baptism, all the gifts of salvation were given to you, but today there are two gifts stand out in light of this miracle at Nain.

1) In your baptism, the powerful **Word of Jesus** gave you eternal life. Right now, in this life, and as you live and breathe, *you have eternal life!* Jesus said you have **already** crossed over from death to life. **No matter how or when you end up dying, death cannot interrupt the eternal life you already have. The moment you die you are in the immediate presence of Christ! Eternal life takes the sting out of death and dying!**

2) A second thing that happened in holy baptism is the powerful **Word of Jesus** promised you that **YOUR BODY** will rise from the dead *on the Last Day*. When Jesus returns, you will hear His voice and your body will rise from the dead! **Like the boy in Nain, your physical, dead body will rise, and you will be reunited with your faithful loved ones in the Kingdom of Heaven!**

**Both eternal life now and the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day were given to you in holy baptism, and all of this happens only because of the powerful Word of Jesus, who Himself has *already* risen from the dead!**

### Finally, one other thing.

When Luke tells the story of Jesus raising the widow's son in Nain, he does something fascinating with the story. He makes sure that we realize that this miracle was **a big deal**; that there were hundreds of witnesses to it.

THE MIRACLE STORY BEGINS . . .

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and **a large crowd** went along with him. 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. LUKE 7:11-12

THE MIRACLE STORY ENDS . . .

This **news about Jesus spread** throughout Judea and the surrounding country. LUKE 7:17

*Two large crowds* converge on a resurrection miracle! The people are *filled with awe and praise God!* They realize that *God has come to help His people!* The result was that *news about Jesus spread all over Judea and the surrounding country.*

People believed Jesus' words because of the miracles He performed.

- The miracles proved that He was the **Son of God**
- The miracles showed that Jesus had **authority over life and death**
- The miracles paved the way so that the **Gospel can be proclaimed** and believed.

The miracles of Jesus do not create faith, only the Word of God can create faith. The miracles help you to know that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the World, and that His words and promises are trustworthy and true.

Today as you hear about this miracle, be absolutely assured in your faith in Christ. Be confident in Jesus' powerful Word; trust His words and promises. Let His powerful miracles in Scripture drive doubts away. Treat your doubt and unbelief like sin, and confess it to God. Hear the Lord's forgiveness and be certain in your own heart that Jesus is the One, True and Only God Who speaks words of life to you!

A story like this miracle in Nain deepens our conviction in the words and promises of God --- especially the promises of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! **Amen!**