

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 10 am

Jesus is the life - The dead young man brought to life

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Welcome

Opening prayer

Hymn MP 1087 What a faithful God we have  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fo1UV9pfrs>

Scripture Reading Isaiah 35 (page 719)

Prayer / testimony

Reading Luke 7:11-17 (The widow's son at Nain)

Hymn MP 1086 Light of the world

Sermon Title "Jesus is the life"

**"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."** John 5:25

Hymn MP 52 God sent his Son  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEyijQ>

*Retiring offering box by the door.*

Closing prayer

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at [www.knbc.org](http://www.knbc.org).

The audio file is [20\\_07\\_26.mp3](#) in the sermons directory

*Welcome, pray*

Jim Munroe was a successful magician, but he had no idea how close to death he was, one day a man walks into his room and says I don't know how to tell you this but you have cancer. The doctor said: "we cannot cure you of your disease" Jim sit silently shuffling his deck of cards. Jim married for five years had a 3yr girl 2yr boy. "I needed time" "God where are you?", Staring death in the face he says "I started reflecting on the choices that I had made and the mistakes I had made.

Today we look at Jesus, and an amazing moment of Divine intervention as Jesus brings a dead man back to life, showing that He, Jesus is 'the life'.

This episode, which is only recorded by Dr Luke, is found in Luke 7:11-17.

It takes place just outside Nain. "11 **Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a town called Nain.** Nain was a small village in Galilee, it's name means "green pastures," or "lovely", today it is a pretty hamlet, called Nein. Life had continued here for many years due to a spring of fresh water. Nain sits on the north-western slope of the "hill Moreh" or "Little Hermon". It is about 20 miles south west of lake Galilee. Caste your eyes northward towards Mount Carmel and you see Nazareth straight ahead across the plain.

This mornings message is broken down into four *stories*. So to the first, - To this town we are told - Jesus along with others **approached the town gate,** and as he did so **a dead person was being carried out.**

This dead person is being carried in a coffin to the cemetery outside of the town, as they were - and still are. The dead man is a young man —**the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.**

If you feel your life is hard well then in that agricultural society it was very hard. Men were needed to work the fields. So here is a woman getting on in life who has lost her husband, all her hopes are in her son that he will work and provide for her – but he is now dead. Here is a very sad woman. She has put her trust in her family and now the're gone. Life in this world is lived under a cloud, it is full of calamity and tears, we all live overshadowed by sorrows and grief!

As Jesus approaches the town gate he is with **his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.**

Coming out of the town the funeral procession slowly proceeds towards them - and with the widow we are told **a large crowd from the town was with her.** A crowd of relations and neighbours, townsfolk condoling and comforting her in her deep loss.

One crowd had followed Jesus, they had seen him heal the sick and were expectant, - the other crowd with the widow sad and sorrowful.

Two crowds – plenty to witness and attest to the truth of the miracle they were about to see. A miracle which gave irrefutable proof of Christ’s divine authority, not only could he heal the sick but also raise the dead.

### 13 **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her**

See how tender Christ’s heart is and how much compassion he has towards those who suffer? When the Lord saw the poor widow following her son to the grave, he had compassion on her. Not only the funeral and loss of a son but a hopeless and uncertain future ahead - Sorrow upon sorrow.

It was a piteous case, and he looked upon it with pity. His eye affected his heart; that is love. God’s people have always know this love through the trials of life. Isa 63:9 **In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.**

The Jesus said to the grieving woman, *Weep not.* Or **"Don’t cry."!!**

**"Don’t cry."!!** I’ve conducted funerals when you see tears welling up you say the opposite, “it’s fine to cry, go ahead”

If anyone else said **Don’t cry.**" They would be considered callous, But Jesus can say it because he knew what he was going to do.

Death comes from judgment - but mercy triumphs over judgment - and therefore mercy triumphs over death.

✚ **The One who brings judgment and death - is the One who also brings mercy and life.**

Ps 30:5 **For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

Woman wipe your eyes, you will need them clear to see, lift up your head and look - keep your eyes on me and you will see something amazing. **Then Jesus went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"** it only needed to be said once

Jesus can speak to the dead. - You and I can speak to the dead, try it, go to the graveside. How many speak to their lost ones, their loved ones.

✚ **But with Jesus it is different – something happens**

15 **The dead man sat up** This coffin was probably an open topped a bier

All could see, the young man is visible, clear evidence before the crowds

✚ **Here is Christ showing both his *pity* and his *power* in raising him to life.**

When we speak to the dead there is only silence not with Jesus **and** [he the young man] **began to talk, - began to talk!** This is not the final spasms of the nervous system - here is the clear sign of life.

Did he now want to follow Jesus? - **Jesus gave him back to his mother.** x2

That is the story, that is what happened, what a loving God it is who graciously and compassionately intervenes to transform a dire situation!

✚ **Someone rang me up a while back asking about something that happened and said “what’s the back story?”**

We’ve had the front story, but there is a back story!

**Back story** - When the people saw the miracle v16. **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."**

What is that all about? Those in the crowds were Jews and knew their bibles well, better than most of us I suspect. To see **Jesus gave him** - the dead boy - **back to his mother** would have rung bells, actions speak loudly don’t they!

Many years ago Elijah had brought to life the son of a widow of Zaraheth (a town further up the coast). With the boy alive **“Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"”** (1Ki 17:23) 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 17:(7-24)

But even more than that is what happened round the corner from where they were. Nain was on the north side of this hill, on the east, *a stones throw*, 15 mins walk was the small town of Shunem. Do you remember what happened there? [2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 4:(8-37)] Elisha had stayed with couple who had no children. Elisha prayed, and the shunammite woman conceived and gave birth to boy. When he was growing up he suddenly died. Elisha comes and restores the boy to life who then said: **“Call the Shunammite.” ... When she came, he said, "Take your son." She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.”** 2Ki 4:36-37

Are you good and making connections? Joining the dots, What does all this mean the muse? Jesus said **all the scripture wrote concerning himself.**

What had Moses said? That a prophet would come - they thought it would be Elijah coming back, the Prophet Malachi seemed to be saying that and the **teachers of the law** were **saying that Elijah must come first”** Mt 17:10

So when Jesus came and he asked who people said he was the people  
“replied, **Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.**”<sup>Lu 9:19</sup>

so no wonder those seeing this miracle concluded **"A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people."**

This obvious link with Elijah and Elisha made them expectant of a similar deliverance. **"God has come to help his people."**

The days of Elijah were dark days, the day of powerful King Omri.

■ See the Moabite stone on bulletin

But King Omri was not only powerful - he was also very evil bringing God's judgment upon them all. If they thought that was bad his son Ahab was worse, much worse **doing more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him** (1k 16:30) **"31 He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of those before him, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ....and provoke the LORD, to anger more than did all the kings of Israel before him.** 1Ki 16:30-33

They were dark days indeed. After years of drought there was the great victory of Elijah at mount Carmel a little further to the north west. A victory against the overwhelming forces of evil and their oppressive neighbour. Now under the yoke of the Roman oppressor they were hoping that finally **"God had come to help his people."**

### *The hopelessness of a dead world*

Evil in this world leave a huge muddy footprint wherever it is found. Oppression, greed, exploitation, abuse, anger suffering and death are the result. Times change, countries change, but the tyranny of sin is ever present

Like the shunammite, the Joy of this woman's wedding must have seemed far distant, she no doubt prayed for a husband and family, a son to take things on and what joy there must have been when these things came. But like the childless shunammite woman her son was born only for him to die.

I was talking to someone just out of university, she had her life planned out, she was happy and saw the road ahead as a happy road.

How little did she know! - How unable you and I are to control or influence what will happen from one day to the next in our lives.

- Proud manager, in one year lost his job, his health/sport, his family.
- Ever watched an insect caught in a spider's web, struggling. You come back later, it's dead. So is this world one of struggle and death

### *(The injection of life into this dead world)*

Who can help? Who can break into it and bring hope?

As mentioned the Jews were expecting someone who would do just that.

Is this miracle working Jesus the one to rescue us out of our desperation?

**17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. 18 John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them,"**<sup>Lu 7:11-18</sup> Go and find out is this the one who was promised and can change things? Or should we expect someone else?

Turn over the page to Luke 7:22 Jesus reply is from Is 35 (read earlier).

**"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.** Isa 35:5,6

All these are signs God kingdom is come, but Jesus adds **the dead are raised Jesus in raising the dead, who raised himself from death to life - is the life!**

That is the simple message then - and for you and I today, now

✚ Sin brings death - Jesus can reverse that and bring life, eternal life

With him there is hope for you and I in this world of death...

Jairus's daughter, she was sick but when she died they came and said **don't bother the teacher any more** Luke 8:49 *Jesus went and brought her to life!*

Lazarus was sick but Jesus intentionally stayed back until he was dead and his body decomposing. It is then, yes then with all watching he calls to him in the tomb **"Lazarus come out!"** - *and life comes to him*

So Jesus is looking down at the corpse of this young man and says to him **"Young man, I say to you, get up!" - I say to you, get up!**

**15 The dead man sat up and began to talk,** He is fully alive!

The initiative of God – Just before we had the centurion who is commended for his faith. - How much faith did this dead man have?!

✚ Jesus speaks life to the dead - Salvation is God's work, God's initiative.

Remember Monty Python's dead parrot sketch John Cleese tries to convince the pet shop owner that the parrot is dead, totally, finally...

I don't wish to belittle death only reinforce the point of our inability

✚ Jesus can speak to the dead - and bring life!

**"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live did you hear that, dead while we used to 'live'**

To live in sin is to be dead, that is dead to God.

God is there but you and I enter this world cut off from Him, and we will only see him one day in the great courtroom of the universe.

**we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.**” (Eph 2:1-5 NIV)

So again **When you were dead in your sins .... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,** Col 2:13

Jesus’s life is not ‘life’ in the obvious sense **he is ‘the’ life**. This is not breathing, that sort of life, that is not real life. Only life with God is real life. Jesus is the life giver, he is described as **the life giving spirit**, he is described as **the author of life**. If you have Him you have LIFE, unshakable, eternal life.

**I have come that you might live to the full, abundant life** John 10:10

There is another level, but naturally none of us know of this other dimension

- The tadpole swims around and thinks that is all there is
- The caterpillar crawls through the lettuces thinking that’s all there is

No there is for the tadpole the world of the air above and new life as a frog  
With the caterpillar there’s the wonderful transformation and the beauty and freedom of the butterfly

Although Jesus brings life to this dead man and hands him to his mother – it is not primarily about her, - if she trusts in Him he is more than able to provide her every need – No – this is to show Christ’s power to rescue lost men and women.

This is not victory and release from Canaanite oppression, nor is it victory and release from Roman oppression, but it is victory and release from the oppression of Sin, from the one who makes all who sin - into slaves of sin.

*So I have a story, my story*

- US Dallas – Street corner meeting

Meeting with them was no coincidence, any more than Jesus entering Nain exactly as the funeral cortege, was coming out, No, it is God’s good plan

- First met Tim outside his house as he was doing his garden. We chatted, but mainly small talk, Lord how shall I bring this round to the things of the gospel and eternity? Just then a hearse came round the corner with other black cars following, that was it.

The witness of the couple, the afternoon meeting of which I remember little but what I do remember is the stirring of the heart the sudden sense of being loved and known and yet still loved suddenly there was someone there. I

had tearfully entered into Christ’s kingdom and I knew the God who had made me and died for me. **He’s alive x2 hallelujah I’m alive x2 Hallelujah**  
*The front story, the back story, my story and now - Your story?*

What is your story? Are your eyes opened? Is your heart awakened? Do you know the immense Joy of Christ and the experiencing of entering His life?

What can you say? Do you know him who is the life? Do you know that divine intervention? The sign that you do - is you love him, you trust him - you have, and are, constantly turning from all sin so as to please Him? Faith.

**"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."** Eph 5:14

✚ **Christ in raising the dead shows both his *pity* and his *power***

What should I do? Can you like that dead man hear him call?

**"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."** Joh 5:25

He who can speak to a tree and it withered can even cause the dead to hear?

Jesus goes on to say **"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."** Joh 5:24

- Jim Munroe had terminal cancer. The doctor told him "Your body is copying bad cells and making more bad cells, it is deceiving itself, what we need to do is completely destroy it and replace the whole system. We could try a bone marrow transplant but that means finding someone in the world whose DNA matches yours close enough so you can have a brand new blood system". Jim cried "time is running out, I am dying of cancer"
- There were 7 million people on the database of the National bone marrow donor programme. Jim says "They found one perfect match for me, just one, a 19 year old girl", The doctor went on "we are going to substitute someone else’s perfect blood on your behalf so you can live again". the blood was brought and it was not rejected.
- "Now" says Jim "I am cancer free and through what happened I can clearly see what Christ did on the cross, how he gave his blood for me so I could live. It’s no longer I who live but Christ living in me."

So Christ is that necessary substitute for you He took the judgment. Only the blood of Christ, his life blood given up and shed on the cross is the only way I can be healed of my sin. "Can you say his blood availed for me" Is that your testimony? your story? **"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."** Joh 17:3 \_END