

I Say Unto Thee, Arise!

Luke 7: 11-17

The opening portion of this chapter bears a powerful testimony to the compassion and mercy of our Lord. It reveals His power over the most difficult of circumstances in life. The previous verses deal with His healing of the Centurion's servant in Capernaum. The following day Jesus makes His way to the little known town of Nain.

The circumstances in Nain are similar to those in Capernaum, but this situation is much more desperate. Death had invaded this little town and Jesus had entered in the midst of a funeral procession.

We all have problems and difficulties in life, whether they are physical, emotional, or spiritual. This passage reveals to us that Jesus is the Master of whatever we face. It is yet another account of Jesus showing up in the midst of a desperate situation and providing deliverance. I want to look at the [circumstances](#) of this encounter as we consider the statement that Jesus made: [I Say Unto Thee, Arise](#).

I. The Mention of Nain (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.](#) Little is known about the small town of Nain, but there are a couple of things that we can discover. Consider:

A. The Location – We know that Jesus had been in Capernaum the day before, so it was located in the region of Galilee. It is believed to have been a day's journey from Capernaum and about 6 miles from Nazareth. We do know that the word Nain means "*beauty*."

- As we consider this small town it would appear that it was a pleasant place, likely a quaint little village near the abundance of the Sea of Galilee. But on this day there was no beauty. The hope and serenity that it held had been invaded by mourning and death.
- I considered two significant truths concerning Nain. First of all, no place is immune from death and suffering. None are shielded from the devastation that life often brings. Regardless of where we live or what we possess, trouble and heartache can be found.
- Also I was reminded that even in the most unknown or remote areas of life, Jesus can be found. He showed up the midst of an unlikely place when they needed Him most!

B. The Expectation – We also discover an interesting detail of this journey. Jesus had not made the trip alone. He was accompanied by His disciples, as well as **much people**, many of them likely from Capernaum.

➤ That may seem insignificant on the surface, but I am convinced that they were confident in the ability of Jesus. He had not even entered the home of the Centurion, just spoken the word and the servant was healed. It is not beyond possibility that they had heard of the death of this young man and had made the trip with the expectation of another miracle.

➤ That ought to stand as a challenge to us as well. We have experienced the mighty power of Christ. Many of us have experienced his abundant salvation. We have seen Him take lives that were devastated by the effects of sin and bring eternal healing. We too have witnessed the miracles that Jesus has brought to those whom the doctors had abandoned hope. We ought to live each day expecting our Lord to do the extraordinary!

I. The Mention of Nain (11)

II. The Mood in 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: and much people of the city was with her.** I can imagine as Jesus and the others drew nigh to the city, they may have admired the beauty of the surrounding area. But as they drew nigh to the city they were met by a crowd of mourners. Let's consider the setting they discovered.

A. It was a Time of Death – Immediately as they attempted to enter the city, they were met by a funeral procession. A man had died and he was being carried out to his place of burial.

➤ Death is a natural part of living. Almost all of us have been touched by the death of a loved one. It is probably the most devastating event that we must face in this life. Death is final. It brings an end to a life that others once knew. The hopes of fellowship and companionship are shattered with death.

➤ The mood in Nain was not one of celebration and beauty, but of mourning and death. We may not be faced with death today, but yet there are many circumstances that we all face that are most difficult.

➤ Also we must be reminded that each of us will face our time to die. When that time comes we must be prepared to meet the Lord. This passage presents an illustration of salvation and victory over death.

B. A Time of Despair – We also find that the man who had died was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. It is particularly devastating to lose a child, but this woman's situation was more desperate than most. She was a widow and she had no more children. In that day many widows had a difficult time of surviving. Many of them lived in poverty without the compassion of others.

- You would have to agree that this was a most devastating situation. This widow woman was in desperate need of a miracle. She needed God to move in her situation in a powerful way.
- You may be here facing a situation that you feel you will never overcome. You may be faced with a trial that you see no way out of. I have good news for you. Jesus is aware of your need and He is near unto you if you will only seek Him. He has the power and ability to meet whatever need you may have.

C. A Time of Distress (12) – As the widow made her way to the graveyard to bury her only son, much people of the city was with her. Some may have joined the funeral procession out of curiosity, but most were likely there because they had a love and concern for this woman and her situation. They had compassion for her need, but they were unable to do anything about it other than offer much needed comfort.

- As of right now our lives may be running smoothly, but we may be burdened with the needs of others. Many times we are limited in what we can do or the help that we can offer. There are times when we feel overwhelmed and distressed by the needs of others.
- In times like these we need to take courage; all hope is not lost. We may be unable to help in a particular situation, but there is One who always can. That brings us to the hope in this passage. Lastly let's consider:

I. The Mention of Nain (11)

II. The Mood in Nain (12)

III. The Miracle in Nain (13-17) – On the surface, and particularly to this mother, it seemed that all hope was lost, but Jesus had come and He was about to display His power and compassion once again. Notice:

A. His Pity (13) – *And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.* This is not an uncommon scene in Scripture. Jesus and those who followed Him had just arrived in town, immediately met with a funeral procession, and He was moved with compassion toward this mother. Her situation touched our Lord and it moved Him to action. He spoke words of comfort to her, revealing His intent to help in her need.

- I rejoice that Christ is One of compassion. I am thankful that He cares for us and is genuinely moved by our needs. It was His love and compassion for all humanity that took Him to the cross. It was His compassion that cried out for forgiveness for those who crucified Him. It was that compassion that compelled Him to give His life as a ransom for sin.
- Surely One who loved that much is concerned with our needs. There is not a problem we face that He is unaware of or unconcerned about!

B. His Power (14-15) – These verses reveal that what seemed a hopeless situation was within His power to control. It may have appeared that death was the end, but Christ was about to demonstrate His power over death. What began as a time of mourning in death would soon become a time of rejoicing in life! His power is revealed in two specific ways. Consider:

1. The Dominion (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.* Jesus made His way to the procession, walking right up to the coffin where the man lay, confronting death face to face. Death had laid hold upon this young man, but it was not sufficient to resist the power of Christ. Jesus went to where death was and conquered it.

- What a glorious reminder of the victory that He won over death, hell, and the grave. He was placed in the tomb, confronted with His own death and He rose again victorious. He conquered sin and hell as He defeated Satan and the grip that he had upon humanity.
- That ought to encourage us today. We too were just like this man. We may not have been dead physically, but we were dead spiritually. We had no hope of life or resurrection, but Jesus won the victory and secured life for all who will come to Him in salvation. Death met life and sin met redemption as Jesus conquered death as He rose again!

2. The Deliverance (15) – *And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.* Prior to the Lord speaking to this man he was dead. There was no life in him at all. His body had been prepared and he was about to be placed in the grave. At the command of Christ, death had to flee. The young man sat up and began to speak. One who was dead now lived again.

➤ The redeemed have that hope and promise as well. We may not be raised as quickly as this man was, but one day the dead in Christ will hear His voice in resurrection and the grave will be unable to hold them any longer!

➤ This is also a beautiful picture of salvation from spiritual death. Because of sin all are dead to God. Our only hope is to meet the Resurrection and the Life. When He redeems a soul from sin, it is set free from the grip of that spiritual death. We are no longer dead in trespasses and sin, but alive in redemption and reconciliation!

C. His Preeminence (16-17) – *And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. [17] And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.*

After Jesus raised this man from the dead the miracle was published near and far. It was evident that a great miracle had happened and those who witnessed it were eager to tell it.

➤ I have never witnessed one raised from the dead physically, but I have witnessed many resurrections spiritually. Could I proclaim to you that Jesus has the power to save? He has the power to heal and redeem. He has the power to do whatever He pleases! What a mighty and merciful Savior we serve.

If you have never met Christ personally, I would like to introduce you to Him. He alone has the ability to meet your need. He is the only means of salvation and hope of eternal life.

If you have never met Him, now would be a good time. If you are struggling with problems and difficulties, why not seek the One who has the power to help you.