

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#21 – “Raising the Dead” – Luke 7:11-17

I. Introduction.

A. Noting the difficult experience of losing a child to death.

1. The Lincolns
2. The Dabneys

B. Today’s text concerns the grieving loss of a widow over the death of her son.

1. Luke 7:11-17

II. Exposition

A. Luke 7:11-12

1. “Nain” – Location and history
2. A dead man with a widow mother in mourning.
3. Her mourning.
 - a. Perhaps her grief is a picture of the grief described by prophets who mourn over Israel’s rejection of Christ. Jeremiah 6:26; Zechariah 12:10
4. Sizeable crowd.
 - a. Many groups would have been included in the company.

B. Luke 7:13

1. “He felt compassion for her.”
 - a. She would be alone.
 - b. Greek word indicates a gut response on the part of Jesus.
2. “Don’t weep.”
 - a. Psalm 68:5
 - b. A protector of widows
 - c. We all could do a better job in comforting the grieving.

C. Luke 7:14-15

1. “He touched the coffin.” (stretcher)
 - a. Num. 19:11-22 – True except for Jesus – Heb. 7:26

2. “I say to you, Arise.”

- a. As creator – John 1:3
- b. Spoke the world into existence – Psalm 33:6,9.
- c. New life flows into this man.

3. “Dead man sat up.”

- a. “An unstoppable force was meeting a seemingly immovable object,” Reginald Quirk.
- b. A medical term in use.
- c. Detractors of miracles noted in Scripture.
 1. Sigmund Freud
 2. However, Luke was an observer who had compiled the facts.
- d. Resurrections in the Gospels.
 1. The son of the widow
 2. Daughter of Jarius
 3. Lazarus
 1. Testimony of Quadratus in a letter to Emperor Hadrian.

D. Luke 7:16

1. “Fear” – phobos – phobia
2. A great prophet had arisen.
 - a. Like Elijah or Elisha – I Kgs 17:17-24; II Kgs 4:18-36
 - b. They missed Moses’ prophecy – Deut. 18:15-18
3. “God has visited his people.”
 - a. 1000 years since a miracle was noted in Israel.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. We are all now dead men walking and talking.
- B. Jesus’ preoccupation with those who were suffering reminds us He reached out to all who are in helpless conditions.
- C. However, do not be surprised that when we offer what they truly need, it is rejected.
- D. Death, oh, death, where is your sting?
- E. Hope for families reunited.