

## **RAISING THE DEAD**

### **Luke 7:11-17**

#### **I. DON'T DENY REALITY**

- A. *“As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her.” (Luke 7:12)*
- B. The First Resurrection Story.
  - 1. How many resurrection stories are there in the New Testament?
  - 2. What's the point of this story?
- C. Bad News on Top of Bad News.
  - 1. A young man dies who is the only son of a woman who is a widow.
  - 2. This woman had known tragedy before! Now she faces a life of poverty, hunger, disease, and an early grave.
- D. Inappropriate and Insensitive Remarks.
  - 1. He's better off now.
  - 2. At least you had thirty years together.
- E. *“We Live in a World of Broken Dreams.”*
  - 1. There are all kinds of grief we bear: grief over divorce, sickness, disability, a child leaving home.
  - 2. Don't deny the reality of the trouble.
  - 3. Consider the alternatives.

#### **II. BEING TOUCHED BY CHRIST**

- A. *“And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’” (Luke 7:13-14)*
- B. The Divine Reality.
  - 1. Jesus walks in and understands all the different layers of her tragedy.
  - 2. Jesus responded not out of custom, like the crowd, but out of compassion.
  - 3. Compassion means, literally, “to be moved to the depths of one's heart.”
- C. God Feels Our Pain.
  - 1. Our God is a God who is intimately involved with us and who even cries with us.
  - 2. God's heart breaks too!
- D. The Power of the Resurrection.
  - 1. It creates new life on both sides of the grave.
  - 2. The most exciting five minutes of your life.
  - 3. *“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)*

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – Margaret Baker, Burney Biesel, Jeanette Boatright, **Ron Gathright**, Maleia Lee, Mary Jo Moore ... **Friends** – Shirley Adkins, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Joe Dudley, Tina Gatlin, Nancy Godsey, Kathy Greer, Arvil Jones, Lucy Jones, **Jeff Joyner**, Ellen Kaplan, Lesli Kaplan, Dillon LaRue, Connie Overton, Jayne Sorrell, Shirley Waldron ...

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to **Kaye French and family** in the death of her father, **Raymond Kelly**, on May 31, and to **Jim MacArthur and family** in the death of his father, **Bill MacArthur**, on Tuesday, June 5 ...

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, who has made us half dust, half deity, our better selves have brought us now to a moment of quietness, and our lesser selves sit grudgingly here enduring it all. We ask for a unity within ourselves that will lead us to honesty in our worship.

Hear our prayers of confession, our acknowledgement that we play such games with ourselves, pretending to be what we are not. Give us the courage just for a moment to take off the masks we wear, as we spend this time in your presence. (*pray silently*)

Hear our prayers of gratitude. For the freedom we enjoy, for this country with all its efforts to lead this world in freedom, for your church which seeks to be your witness to the world, for families that love us and care for us as we face difficult days, hear our prayers of gratitude. (*pray silently*)

Hear our prayers of intercession. Sometimes we forget those who live in pain and poverty, in hopelessness and despair, because they are so far away from our daily lives. Hear our prayers for any person we know who is being tested in a special way this week. (*pray silently*)

Father, because we struggle to put our thoughts into words, we ask you to look inside our hearts, and seeing what we are, complete these prayers for us, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## LUKE 7:11-17

Soon afterward he went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

## SERMON SCHEDULE

### In the Sanctuary:

June 17	<i>What Was He Thinking?</i> Father's Day	Luke 7:36-8:3
June 24	<i>Building Bridges</i>	Galatians 3:23-29
July 1	<i>Look Carefully at His Face</i> Holy Communion	Luke 9:51-62
July 8	<i>Sending Sojourners into a Strange Land</i>	Luke 10:1-11,16-20

### On the Radio (1450 AM):

June 17	<i>The Bottom Line</i>	James 2:14-26
June 24	<i>Taming the Tongue</i>	James 3:1-12
July 1	<i>Christ-minded Christianity</i>	James 3:13-18
July 8	<i>Hold the Fort!</i>	James 4:1-12