

RESURRECTION OF WIDOW'S SON AT NAIN

Luke 7:11-17

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Jesus

Key-location: Entrance to the city of Nain

Key-repetitions:

- Crowd: a large crowd followed Jesus to Nain (Lk 7:11); a large crowd was in the funeral procession (Lk 7:12); the crowd was filled with fear (Lk 7:16).
- Jesus spoke: Jesus told the dead man's mother "Don't cry" (Lk 7:13); Jesus told the dead man, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" (Lk 7:14).
- Dead man: The dead man was the only son of a widow (Lk 7:12); the dead man sat up and began talking (Lk 7:15).

Key-attitudes:

- Despair of the widow, the dead man's mother.
- Jesus' pity for the mother.
- Jesus' confidence when he told the dead man to get up.
- Crowd's fear, then excitement.

Initial-Situation:

John the Baptist was arrested at the beginning of Jesus' second year of ministry. Jesus selected twelve disciples and taught them the rules for his Kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus and his disciples left the mountainside, went to the city of Capernaum, and Jesus continued his ministry. During the second year of Jesus' ministry, his popularity with the people grew; however, religious leaders began their opposition.

Initial-problem: Jesus came to the city of Nain as a funeral procession was coming out of the city.

Final-situation:

Fear gripped everyone. The multitude began to glorify God.

BIBLE STORY

Soon after preaching the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus went to the town named Nain. He was followed by his disciples and a large crowd. He approached the town gate and encountered a funeral procession coming out. The dead man was the only son of a widow. A large crowd from the town was with her. The Lord Jesus saw the mother of the dead man, felt pity for her and said, "Don't cry."

Jesus walked over and touched the coffin. Those carrying it stood still. Jesus said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began talking. Jesus gave the young man back to his mother.

The crowd was filled with fear. Then they praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us. God has come to help his people." News about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding country (Lk 7:11-17).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happened when Jesus met the funeral procession of the only son of a widow in Nain?
2. What emotion did Jesus feel toward the mother of the dead woman?
3. How did the crowd react to the resurrection of the widow's son?
4. What does the resurrection of the widow's son from Nain teach us about Jesus' relationship with death?
5. How can this story help us deal with the death of someone?
6. When we are helping someone deal with the death of a loved one, what is the best thing we can do to comfort them?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Jesus is the Lord and has power to banish death and sadness.** He resurrected the widow's son in Nain (Lk 7:11-17). See 1 Cor 15:55-57.
2. **People receive many undeserved benefits just because God loves them.** Jesus' compassionate love was the only reason given for the resurrection of the widow's son in Nain (Lk 7:13).
3. **Jesus sympathizes with unprotected people.** The widow from Nain was completely unprotected, being without husband and children. Christ's compassionate love for the unprotected widow was the reason he resurrected her only son (Lk 7:11-17).

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Pantomime Retelling of the Story:

The storyteller tells the story one time.

- The storyteller chooses a listener to pantomime the story as the storyteller tells it a second time.
- Invites another listener to retell the story.
- Asks listeners if the one who retold the story left out or added to the story.