**Help of the Helpless**

Based on [Luke 7:11-17](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk7.11-17)

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Whatever your faith and hope is built on, it will need that thing to survive. If your faith is based on miracles and signs, it will need more and more miracles and signs to survive. If it is based on a promise, it will need to hear that promise over and over again. The Christian faith is based on a promise that Jesus Christ is God, he has the power to raise the dead, and he will come again some day to do it. We need to consider this often and always, lest our faith lose it’s foundation.

Jesus went to a town called Nain along with his disciples and a crowd that was following him. There he happened upon a funeral procession for a man who had died. He was the only son of a widow. When he saw her, Jesus had compassion on her. He came and touched the bier, the frame the man was being carried on and said, “Young man, I say to you arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.” All who were there were seized with fear, and praised God.

There are two things here that we need to pay attention to. The first is that Jesus has the power to raise the dead. Jesus miracles are for the purpose of proving his power and authority. An illustration. If you see a parent telling their child to come here or to go there, and the child doesn’t listen...what’s to do? As a parent you might repeat the command several times, and if that doesn’t work...simply approach your five year old and drag him or her to where they should be. However, when you see a child obey their parents commands immediately, you know that that parent has authority.

When jesus is on the sea with his disciples and a storm rages, his disciples are afraid. Jesus simply says to the wind and the waves…”Peace, be still” and nature obeys him. And when he touches the bier, he simply says “Young man, I say to your arise”. And life enters the man again...immediately.

Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross, and his detractors mocked him saying “he saves others but he cannot save himself.” Not true. He has the authority to lay down his life and the authority to take it up again. What is comforting to us is the patience with which he faces his cross, because he knows that, in the end all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. Everything has to obey him, and he can change the course of anything with a single word.

We are anxious about many things. We fear death because it is so final...or so it seems. All technology and the world itself is always running from it, trying to beat it. But the world will never have the technology to give life. But Jesus is Life. His miracles testify to this. He resurrects the eyes of the blind, he gives life to dead limbs, he undoes death by raising bodies to life.

And here’s the point. God has the power to undo anything, thats why you can have peace here and now. Death is the enemy, and we have our ways of coping with it’s inevitablility. We can ignore; talk around it; call a funeral a “celebration of life”, hope for technology to postpone it or dodge its many fronts of attack. But nothing can ever give the peace that God wants you to have in christ jesus...that peace rests on a promise, that death is not all-powerful. Whatever happens to you, God can correct it. Whatever you have done, God can undo it...even sin and death.

The second lesson to treasure, is not only that Jesus has the authority to forgive sins and raise the dead...it’s also that he wants to. And he doesn’t come to help the strong, but he has compassion on the utterly helpless. It’s hard to imagine a more helpless situation than that of this widow. Today it’s different, their is life insurance, food banks, welfare programs, and even employment opportunities. Not so for widows in biblical times. She suffered a massive blow whenever it was that her husband died. But her son was alive to take care of her. Now he had died too. The scripture doesn’t say how she was feeling, but it points out that he was her only son, and that she was a widow...and that’s to make us understand she is helpless.

Jesus cares for the helpless. He cares for the widows, and when he sees others suffering and helpless he has compassion. He has compassion, even in the midst of his own suffering. Think to the cross, where he says to his own mother “Behold your son” and to John the Apostle, “Behold your mother”, and from that day forward, John took her into his home.

When Jesus sees you suffering, he suffers. When he sees you in need, he provides. He is the image of the invisible God, and in Him dwells the fullness of divinity. On earth in the flesh, he drew near to many people had compassion on them.

Our faith needs to hear this, so that it can have full assurance in this life. Jesus has the power to raise the dead; he wants to do it for you; and he will come again and undo every evil thing that you have done and that has been done unto you. Physically he will raise from death your body and the body of those whom you love, the way he raised the widow's son. That’s a promise for the future, from the mouth of one who speaks a command and nature obeys. Physically, he has the power to undo death...that’s a promise for our future hope.

Spiritually he has the power to undo sin...and that’s a promise for right now. He is ascended to the right hand of power, but he left on earth the authority to forgive sins. When through faith, you hear the words of forgiveness, and receive Christ’s body and blood, you have assurance that whatever sins you have committed have been undone in heaven, by the power of the one who nailed it all to the tree.