

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Fourteen

Raising the Widow's Son

Text: Luke 7:11-17

Introduction:

1. In the last few lessons, we have studied miracles that Jesus performed to challenge the Pharisees.
2. Along with those miracles, He had demonstrated a love for those the Pharisees hated – sinners, publicans, Samaritans and even Gentiles.
3. After healing the man with the withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and healed multitudes from all parts of Palestine (Mark 3:7-12).
4. Matthew tells us that this was done in fulfillment of prophecy that the Gentiles would trust in Jesus (Matthew 12:15-21).
5. Following this, Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 – 7; Luke 6:17-49).
6. Then, Jesus returned to Capernaum and again demonstrated His love for the Gentiles by healing the servant of a Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10).
7. This all leads up to and culminates in one of Jesus' greatest miracles – raising a widow's son from the dead!

I. The Miracle

- A. If the other miracles Jesus had performed failed to convince those who heard Him, this one should have left them without any doubts about His power or identity.
- B. Consider the details of this miracle...
 1. It took place on the next day in a city called Nain (located either 2 or 25 miles SW of Capernaum).
 2. It was witnessed by the disciples of Jesus who traveled with Him.
 3. It was witnessed by unbelievers who traveled with Him, including Pharisees.
 4. It was witnessed by a large crowd of the city who were with the widow.
 5. It occurred at the gate of the city – the center of town business.
 6. There was no collusion or deception for Jesus arrived as the body was being carried to the place of burial.
 7. When Jesus spoke the command, "Arise," the dead man sat up and began speaking!
- C. Consider the obvious difference between the genuine miracle of Jesus and the professed miracles of today.

II. The Manifestation

- A. The miracle demonstrated Jesus' compassion and pity for others.
- B. The miracle demonstrated Jesus' authority and awesome power.

III. The Message

- A. Evidence to the honest heart (Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35)
- B. Woe to the rebellious sinner (Matthew 11:20-30)
- C. Great fear was caused among the people.
- D. God was glorified by the people.
- E. They recognized that Jesus was a great prophet sent from God (cf. Acts 3:22-23; Deuteronomy 18:15; 1 Kings 17:17-24).