



The Widow's Dead Son

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

After completing His "Sermon upon the Mount" which of course was in the springtime prior to Passover Christ and His company including the Apostles then once again set out from Capernaum in traveling Ministry.

Dr. Luke now picks up our Lord's narrative by using the chronological order of the human life of Jesus our Christ.

✠ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.

Dr. Luke 7: 11 NIV

Nain was no small walk, it is about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum moving inland away from the Sea of Galilee but bypassing Nazareth altogether where Christ in Jesus had a bitter confrontation.

Nain meaning "pleasant" in Hebrew still exists today as an Arab village but has the modern spelling of "Nein."

In Jesus Time this was rich farm land that was later made totally barren up through the 20th century. This was because first the Romans razed and blazed each Nain's buildings crops and trees in 70 AD. While later Nain/Nein was claimed by the Islamic Ottoman Empire and a property improvement tax was implemented even more specifically upon any standing tree.

So, as you can imagine this area post Roman diaspora was left quiet barren and desolate.

For the record; Nain in Jesus Time was a non descript out of the way small agriculture town near Mt. Moreh which defines the Eastern side of the Jezreel valley.

AKA Megiddo future site of the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation & many Biblical Old Testament Prophets)

Our point here being is just as Jesus's encounter with the "Samaritan Lady at the Well" likewise it appears Jesus was on the move to a remote rural farm area for a specific person place and time.

Continuing

✠ As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

Dr. Luke 7:12 ESV

Jesus has made His Appointment!

Our Lord had only an exact 10-30 minute window if you wish to include the final graveside service by which to walk overland a distance of 25 miles to arrive at a exact time.

Most likely with this said funeral procession typically the widowed/mother if able would have been walking directly in front of the bier containing her son's body in an open coffin.

As we have previously seen marriage in Israel during the 1st century was designed with the Bride usually significantly younger than the Bride Groom in order for the Husband to be established as for raising a family. While later it was the Brides sons or immediate family whom would care for their mother when widowed as her children matured. Again this was normal at this time.

As such this was the widow/mothers only son & unless she was independently wealthy her loss was not only tragic but devastating each emotionally spiritually & financially as well.

Make no mistake about the word son being used here:

The word used here in Greek for "son" means a son but not necessarily young, as in even the exacting King James Version calls the widows son a man. Meaning he was in care of his mother.

The widow son's body at this point would have been prepared already meaning washed groomed and wrapped in clean linen strips saturated with spices & myrrh. (firming up like a fragrant shellac)

A custom Israel had acquired while under the bondage of slavery in Egypt.

The most likely destination for this funeral procession were the ancient tombs about a ten minute walk outside of Nain that still of course do exist today.

As for the scripturally mentioned large crowds respectfully following along behind the funeral:

Remember it was Jewish Law that when a child of Abraham (Jewish) passed away-

Each and every Jew regardless of their rank or position if physically able when encountering a funeral procession they were required to respectfully tag along at the rear clapping and singing with the cadence of the appropriate mournful songs.

This Law also applied to Jewish weddings in fact a wedding trumped a funeral if necessary.

Of course a funeral procession was solemn while the wedding was festive.

These customs were based upon the word of GOD that gives every life respect with worth.

Even amongst the poorest of Jews it was custom for a family/relative of the deceased to provide as in hire a minimum of 2 flute players and one weeping woman.

As it was thought and taught by the Pharisee's that Israel without their professional guidance that the common people did not even know how to grieve properly.

Naturally this was resented in Jesus Time not unlike how a death tax or legal procedures today can be stressfully imposed upon a grieving surviving family.

The local Synagogue or private charitable giving was used if a stranger or a person without any family passed and not being able to afford the proper by Rabbinical rules professional grievers.(moirologists)

Ok get all of that?

The crowds of the funeral would now by custom and Law be joined by the crowds following Jesus.

Continuing

✠ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Dr. Luke 7:13-14 RSV

Notice Jesus expressed Compassion on her the mother/ widow.

By knowing her situation one of suffering a painful sorrowful loss also combined with her physical means and needs of provision now in question while not even mentioning her feelings of helplessness and loneliness.

Get that?

Our Lord actually displayed no concern whatsoever for the dead man.

Think about that.

This recommends that the dead Jewish man was one of Righteousness. (Believing)

As in Reverent to GOD whom died in good standing that he was Faithfully awaiting GOD'S Messiah.

Meaning I submit here that he had to have already been in "Sheol" the abode of the dead.

Where our eternal Sinful Souls our inner most being the essence of us went upon death pre Christ.

This be before our Lord completed His Work on our behalf upon His Cross.

As in before Jesus, when we died as believing sinful human beings our Souls descended into the Earth into Sheol. As did then and still do today all of the unrepentant unbelieving people as well.

Sheol was partitioned into two camps divided by an impossible to traverse gulf in between. (Luke 16:26)
One side was good called "Paradise" in which the Jews called Abrahams Bosom. (Also Luke 16)

Paradise was pleasant and a place of comfort with rest from this life and world's troubles awaiting the time of the coming Christ to restore humanities relationship with Pure, Holy, & Just Jehovah GOD. Think of Paradise as a gilded cage because that is exactly what it was past tense.

Again this be for those whom were born and died pre Christ before Jesus completed GOD'S plan for man as in human kinds Spiritual Redemption and Restoration.

Post Resurrection when Jesus ascended into Heaven with the Sins of the Faithful awaiting in Paradise forgiven and washed clean, Jesus freed those captives of their Sin and set them free, meaning they also went up into Heaven in/with Jesus. Just as all believers post cross do upon our physical deaths. So this certainly means that neither Purgatory nor Soul sleep are true.

Why? Because Jesus and His Apostles expressly taught this:

Dying words of a criminal thief on a cross beside Jesus

✝ And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. (Body dead Soul still alive and well) Dr. Luke 23:42-43 KJV

Teaching of Apostle Saul/Paul

✝ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸ but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NASB

Paul awaiting possible execution for proclamation of the Gospel of Christ

✝ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:21-23 ESV

Today the dead in Christ our living Souls meaning our brothers and sisters already on the other side of this life having physically passed away await just as we do for the "Day of the Lord." (Rapture)

This ends with the taking of the Bride of Christ, it begins with the dead already in Heaven their bodies are risen from the Earth being each perfected and immortal then reunited with their Souls.

While likewise scripture says in the twinkling of an eye those still alive will instantly be transformed into incorruptible flesh and meet Christ in the air to be taken directly into Heaven to also be forever more with our Lord Christ in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ~ Philippians 3: 20-21 ~ 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ~ Acts 1:7-8 ~ Revelation 3:10 ~ Mark 13:32 ~ John 14:3 The wedding promise.)

Ok, conversely the other or "bad" side of Sheol, the abode of the dead, is still very much active today known as Hades or Hell. Actually hell can be compared to a local jail holding cell. (Lake of fire prison)

Originally created for lucifer/satan & his fallen demonic. (Matthew 25:41 ~ 2 Peter 2: 4 & 9 ~ Jude 1:6)

Legends hold that over the centuries Hades was enlarged and consumed what was formerly Paradise.

As in for the unrepentant (unsaved unbelieving) people who have died and are awaiting their final sentencing at what is known as the “Great White Throne” Judgement. (Revelation 20:11)

Make no mistake the Great White Throne Judgement is not a trial but is GOD’S final disposition upon the rebellious refusing His Will as for their existence either Sinful human or Fallen angelic.

All are guilty who are present at this Judgement and are destined to be cast/transferred into the eternal “lake of fire.” The eternal prison of forever as they those lost, were personally willingly wishing to be absent from GOD’s Law and purposes.

So those rebellious & lost will be apart and forever forgotten from the presence of Heavenly Father.

GOD forgives through Christ His Son our Sin. Likewise when GOD forgets all Sin post Great White Throne, those still within their Sin- the unsaved being unredeemed are lost because of unrepentant Sin and are also forgotten for GOD’S and our peace of heart and mind. (Isaiah 65:17 ~ Rev. 21:4-5)

So when someone asks How? Can a loving GOD send anyone to Hell. (ultimately Lake of Fire.)

The correct answer is He did not.

Each and everyone in Judgement chose to be apart from GOD living in rebellion unto Him & His Law.

Why? Should GOD give anyone eternal comfort who chooses to remain in selfish Sin apart from Him. Especially when GOD Himself- Christ the Son humbled Himself and then literally died for them?

When someone refuses Christ it is the ultimate act of rebellion.

This literally means even though GOD died for me I still reject your rules and obligations for my very existence even if this means the rejection of your Love Purpose and even the true Meaning of my life.

For generations John 3:16 which I like to call Jesus 3:16 was the most beloved verse of the Bible but most people stop there when they really should also read the next two passages detailing this very sentiment.

✝ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 3: 16-19 NIV

Back to our lesson: In short it is safe to say that Jesus already knew the widowed/mothers son was present in Paradise comfortably awaiting his Messiah’s personal redemption.

Think about it; I’m no Theologian but I do suggest it could not be otherwise.

Again those on the “bad” side of death in Hades/Hell are literally forgotten.

E.g. Jesus Himself Deity within humanity did not know the name of the demonic possessing the man amongst the tombs at Gerasenes. In fact the demon boasted before Christ that his name was Legion for they were many fallen demons within the man. (Mark 5)

While likewise during the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, one each in Paradise and one in Hades speaking to one another across the untraversable void in the realm of the dead-

Jesus knew the name of Lazarus in Paradise, but He did not know the name of the rich man in Hell.

Get that? GOD in Christ was purposely forgetting the loss of the ones He had created for His own sake to ease His heart & mind because they had ultimately by their own freewill rejected Him.

So our widow/mothers son had to have been in Paradise to be remembered at all by Jesus our Christ!

It would go against every scriptural reference as for death judgement and eternal existence- As in someone unsaved by rejecting GOD, to be raised again because they have already permanently forsaken GOD & being as such they have been subsequently forgotten by GOD once in physical death. As in they died while willingly also still being inside Spiritually dead.

The unsaved die and leave behind a dead body, while having a Soul eternal, but without the Spiritual life of/by Christ. "Forever lost by thine own free Will" is literally the definition of their epitaph.

Positively without question:

The dead unsaved can not be raised even to serve another Saved person yet still alive in their need. Yes I know.

This can and really is hard to mentally digest & accept especially the unsaved being totally forgotten.

But the death of someone unsaved as in the rejecting of Christ tis the benchmark, watermark, standard of acceptance, the very GODLY terms of our second chance at Redemption. (Genesis 3:15)

We get this second chance (Christ Jesus) because satan lied to Eve humanity's common distant mother.

Remember satan in rebellion to GOD declared that not even we from his estimation, we tiny puny human beings, would never accept GOD if we were given free Will with knowledge and intellect.

So Heavenly Father did not destroy the lines of Adam & Eve when they rebelled and died Spiritually while being just as equally physically corrupted and doomed eventually to die.

This is exactly When? GOD'S plan for man(kind) did begin.

From Eve's sinful seed we as human beings would come a Divine Savior redeeming all peoples whom seek refuge and comfort in the Lord. Generation by generation, Saved one by one until our number is complete. How many Pray tell is that? Only Jehovah Almighty knows.

As for GOD'S forgetting of the unsaved dead- it is even more crushing emotionally and Spiritually to GOD Himself when a person that He personally created dies Willingly apart from Him.

So yes, scripture says GOD forgets them & furthermore so shall we. Again for peace of heart & mind.

GOD forgets and then dries every tear and fear in Heaven. (Isaiah 65:17 ~ Revelation 21:4 ~ Isaiah 25:8)

It would go against every scriptural reference as for death judgement and eternal existence if the dead widow/mothers son was unsaved to be returned & reanimated from Sheol the lost Hades side.

As for this widow's son in his case from his perspective of Faith, meaning his belief that a Messiah will be born human to Save GOD'S Faithful would have placed him in Paradise just like the thief on the cross to be remembered. (By GOD, Yes the thief was calling Christ GOD) Not in Hades/Hell to be forgotten.

So do not be deceived what is forgotten and left behind can not be retrieved. This means people.

The Old Testament Saints looked forward to Messiah while we look back at Christ tis the same.

A persons Faith & submission unto GOD, His Word, and His Savior Redeems!!

Yes indeed this young man had to have been eligible for physical restoration by Christ because He was remembered by Christ as Spiritually Justified in Faith awaiting in Paradise the Sanctification from Himself Jesus, GOD'S Messiah.

The Widow's son Believed!

Again as such Jesus was at peace personally as for the young mans death. Jesus only showed concern for the widow/mother because the Lord knew her son was fine in Paradise.

Conclusion

✝ And the dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us!" and, "God has visited His people!" ¹⁷ And this report about Him spread throughout Judea and in all the surrounding region. Dr. Luke 7 : 15-17 NASB

Naturally the fame of Jesus was now exploding throughout well just about everywhere. What else is there to say here other than only by our Lord Christ's Divinity within Jesus's humanity made this supernatural miracle possible as in being a definite undeniable proof of Messiah.

Get That?

People were severely afraid when Jesus demonstrated His power over death.

Question? Is this really something to fear.

But rather for those who believe in Jesus this is an example to take hope!

Ok, first of all no denial was ever made of this death to life miracle. Think about that.

This could should & would be denied by the Pharisee's if there was any way at all possible.

It was not. There were simply far too many people who saw and knew this miracle to be true!

Do not just take my word on this:

Quadratus : considered to be the first Christian Apologist (defender of the Faith by education and reason) Wrote to the Roman Emperor Hadrian informing him that he had nothing to fear of the rise of Christianity while he further stated that the many eye witnesses of Jesus our Christ's miracles are proof of Christ's Deity including His many healings including the raising of the dead.

From the Apology of Quadratus Excerpt from Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, IV.iii):

But for the words of our Saviour were always present, for they were true, those who were cured, those who rose from the dead, who not merely appeared as cured and risen, but were constantly present, not only while the Saviour was living, but even for some time after he had gone, so that some of them survived even till our own time. Such was he.

Also from: Following Jesus with the Apostolic Fathers by Pastor Timothy McKenzie.

Aristides too, a man of faith and devoted to our religion, has, like Quadratus, left behind a defense of the faith addressed to Hadrian. His writing, too, is preserved by many. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History. Vol. I, Trans. by Kirsopp Lake, Loeb Classical Library No. 153, Cambridge: Harvard, (1926) 1992, IV.iii) Excerpts from Roman writers about Christianit.

Likewise the Roman writer Tacitus, Annals XLIV: Describes Christ and His followers.

As does Pliny (the younger) Letter XCVI presented to Emperor Trajan.

Where as Emperor Trajan's actual response to Pliny is recorded and preserved in Letter XCVII

Further Marcus Aurelius, Meditations (Book 11.3) comments on Christians not fearing death.

The fame, the dread, the fear, the wonderment of Christ in Jesus healing & even raising of the dead while conversely perplexing the Romans to an astonished degree that their most powerful weapon- this be the fear of death, was inexplicably totally useless when used against Believers of Jesus.

Christians know Jesus died and rose again and He offers the very same for them!

✝ I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him!

Luke 12: 4-5 RSV