

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WALKING WITH JESUS

RLJ-1491

JOHN S. TORELL

APRIL 12, 2015

PART 4: RAISING THE DEAD

Raising someone from the dead is not a favorite subject for most pastors to speak about because the majority of churches in the United States do not believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit today or in the existence of demons and there is no teaching concerning the supernatural. The average pastor doesn't want to stand up and preach a sermon on how to raise the dead since that would be spiritual suicide for him because of the lack of power in today's churches; however, in this message we will boldly examine three such episodes in the New Testament. **Genesis 2:7; 1:27-29**

THE DEAD MAN OF NAIN

Jesus was on His way to the city of Nain with the apostles and a large group of people tagging along. They met a funeral procession on its way to the cemetery as they arrived at the city gate. **Luke 7:11**

As Jesus approached the funeral procession, He saw that the woman who had lost her only son was weeping. She was a widow with no income and now her only son was dead. **verse 12**

Jesus knew the woman had lost her husband and thus would not have any more children. Her son would have taken care of his mother but now he was dead! Jesus decided to intervene in the widow's life and restore her son to life. **verse 13**

Jesus approached the men that carried the dead body on a gurney, touched the corpse and commanded the young man to get up. **verse 14**

The Jewish custom is that when a person dies, the corpse must be buried within 24 hours. This man would have been dead long enough for his brain to be without oxygen, the blood had coagulated and rigor mortis would have set in; instead, the power of God surged through his dead body and restored all vital functions instantly. **verses 15-16**

Jesus did not attend all funerals and raised the dead back to life. The conditions we find are three fold: Jesus was present, He saw a need and acted out of compassion.

LAZARUS OF BETHANY

Jesus had personal friends when He walked on the earth. Among them were two sisters, Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. Word was sent to Jesus that Lazarus was sick and in need of a healing. Jesus intentionally delayed His departure and allowed Lazarus' condition to worsen. **John 11:1-6**

Two days after Jesus received word that Lazarus was sick, He decided to go and raise His friend from the dead. **verses 7-15**

Jesus was met by Martha when they were close to Bethany and she scolded him for not having come earlier. Martha sent word to Mary that Jesus had come, who echoed what Martha had said earlier. **verses 16-32**



When Jesus saw the weeping and their grief, it affected Him to the degree that He too wept, not because Lazarus was dead, but because of the unbelief in the two sisters and the human race in thinking that death was not reversible. **verses 33-38**

Jesus wanted Martha and Mary to participate in the approaching miracle and told them to give the order to open the grave. He could have had the angels supernaturally remove the stone that sealed the cave but Jesus wanted the sisters to take a step of faith. **verses 38-40**

There were other graves in the same rock formation that served as a cemetery and Jesus deliberately only called out Lazarus' name so that no one else was resurrected at that moment. Here is a common sense question: How can a dead man hear his name called out? **verses 41-45**

Jesus had other friends than these three siblings but He did not raise them from the dead. Jesus only selected certain people for resurrection from the dead and it was always with a specific purpose. **John 11:4**

DORCAS OF JOPPA

We have thus far examined two incidents when people were resurrected from the dead by Jesus but He was not the only one to perform such a miracle; He commanded the disciples to do the same. **Matthew 10:1; 7-8**

Dorcas was a believer in Christ and contributed greatly to the church at Joppa. The church sent for Peter when she took ill and died. **Acts 9: 36-38**

When Peter arrived, local church members showed him the garments Dorcas had made and how she had been a great help for the widows with no income. **verse 39**

It is interesting that Peter did not consult with anyone but asked the people to leave the room. He did not ask God if it was His will to raise Dorcas from the dead; Peter knew that it was God's will and acted upon it. The end result was that Dorcas was raised from the dead. **verses 40-42; Hebrews 11:6**

SUMMARY

What can we learn from these three examples?

1. The ability to raise the dead is one of the gifts given to the believers in Christ. **Matthew 28:18-20**
2. Jesus did not intend for His disciples to visit every cemetery and resurrect the dead; instead, they selectively raised people from the dead by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. **Colossians 1:9-12**

Do you have faith to believe that God can use you to raise up a dead person? Remember, a Christian is what he speaks and believes! **Matthew 8:13**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?