



Father Joseph's Outline for the 3rd Sunday of Luke

Luke 7:11-16 - Sunday 10/19/2008

**“And [Jesus] said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’
And the dead man sat up, and began to speak.” (Luke 7:14-15)**

The raising of the young man of Nain by Jesus raises many issues pertaining to death. There are countless questions, such as:

- Why do we die?
- What happens after death?
- How can we avoid dying?
- How does Christ make a difference in our life when it comes to death?
- Does Jesus today raise people from the dead the same way He did to the young man of Nain?
- Why does not Jesus raise all those who die today as He did to the young man of Nain?

These and more questions come to mind when talking about death. Not all questions are possible to answer, as many answers are known only to God, but we will touch upon a few.

Death, dying, and Jesus Christ:

“When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’” (Luke 7:13)

1. How can she *not* weep, seeing her only child, a young man, die and leave her alone? And on the top of that, she was already a widow!
2. Jesus Christ is the only one who can say that, as He is the only one who has authority over death and can bring the soul back to life, even after death.

What does Jesus say about life?

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” (John 8:51)
- “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.” (John 6:47)

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- “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.’” (John 11:24-25)

What does Jesus say about death?

- “Then He said again to them, ‘I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.’” (John 8:21)
- “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)
- “Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?” (John 8:53)

Points to ponder:

- Jesus has stated on many occasions, by word and deed, that He is the Author of life, because He is the “Life”.
- Jesus also stated very clearly by His words and deeds His absolute authority over death.
- Jesus emphasized very clearly that He is the “Life” to those who partake of Him. *“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.”* (John 6:48-50)
- Holy Communion is the bread of life that is given to the believers to grant them eternal life. *“So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.’”* (John 6: 53-55)
- Partaking of Holy Communion, that is, the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and his most holy Body, requires a way of life that is appropriate to the gift that is being given by God to us. *“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? What do I mean then?...I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”* (1st Corinthians 10:16-21)
- After the most awesome sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the power of death was destroyed, and life has become available to people as it was intended by God when He first made creation.
- “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life”. Bestowing refers to a continuous action of giving life, not to a one time incident only.

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Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Life and the Resurrection of the world. By Your death, we have been granted life. Send Your life into our hearts. Raise us up from the death that we caused because of our sins. Do not permit the Devil to steal Your divine grace from our hearts. Raise us up on the fearful day of Your judgment and grant us life eternal, and upon those who have died bestow Your mercies and the mercies of Your Eternal Father and Your all-holy Spirit. Amen.

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