



August 22, 2021
“Dead Man Talking”
Luke 7:11-17
Pastor Gary Hamrick

There is an obscure little village in Israel called Nain. It’s only mentioned one time in the entire Bible, and it’s the location of a miraculous event in which Jesus raised a young man from the dead. The account is a display of Jesus’ compassion for a woman who had already buried her husband, and she was now getting ready to bury her only son, until Jesus intervened. This account also provides a glimpse into the permanent resurrection from the dead that Jesus offers to all who believe in him. In this message Pastor Gary explains how we too can be raised from the dead to live with the Lord forever!

1. Pastor Gary said, “For three people in the Gospels they were able to cheat death temporarily because unbeknownst to them, they had a divine appointment with Jesus. ... The one that is most familiar [was] Jesus raising from the dead his friend, Lazarus. ... [The Bible also records the account of Jairus’ daughter being raised from the dead.] ... Jesus raised just three people; it’s not like he went around raising a bunch of people from the dead. ... [After each of these people were raised], they died again. ... [Jesus] did this to prove that he had the power over death.”
2. Nain
 - a. Nain was an obscure village located about twenty-five miles south of Capernaum, which was the home base during the time of Jesus’ public ministry.
 - b. Nain was about eight and one-half miles south of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.
 - c. In Hebrew, the name Nain means pleasant or charming.
 - d. Nain is an Arab village today.
3. Jesus’ compassion

- a. [Luke 7:13](#) – *“When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her...”*
- b. Other New Testament examples of Jesus’ compassion include
 - i. [Matthew 9:36](#) – *“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*
 - ii. [Matthew 15:32](#) – *“Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, ‘I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.’ ”*
- c. Pastor Gary said, “[Jesus] was always filled with compassion, tender loving mercy for people in their helpless condition. ... He had compassion on her not just because she was a grieving mother, though that was obviously part of it, but he also had compassion on her because of her particular circumstance in life. ... A woman in this particular day was completely dependent upon a man [to] provide for her. ... [If a woman did not have a father, brother, husband, or a son] to provide for her, she was destined to be destitute. ... [Jesus not only wanted] to comfort her emotionally... he also [wanted] to comfort her materially. ... [By] bringing her son back from the dead, her son would be able to provide for her. ... This miracle [is really just as much about the woman] as it was for the young man that [was] raised from the dead. ... [This] young man was probably in his early twenties. ... Jesus went to where the need was, and he wasn’t concerned about ritualistic things, so he had no problem touching [the] coffin. He basically wanted the pallbearers to put this on pause... *“And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.’ ”* ([Luke 7:14](#))

4. God is always on time

- a. Pastor Gary said, “Jesus [was] criticized when he showed up to raise his friend Lazarus from the dead, and he [was] criticized by Lazarus’ sister, Martha. ... When Lazarus was sick and near death, but he hadn’t died, [Martha and Mary] sent word to Jesus that his friend, Lazarus, was sick and about to die. And the Bible says that Jesus tarried where he was for a few more days. Now, why would he do that? Why would you not feel the urgency to go to your sick and dying friend? Why would you just let him die? So, by the time Jesus got to [their] home, not once but twice Martha [said]... to Jesus, ‘If you had been here my brother wouldn’t have died.’ ... I think she was critical of [Jesus]... [Jesus] is always on time even though it may not look like it to us. ... Her initial reaction was that [Jesus] showed up late. ... Sometimes God allows circumstances to get the [direst] so that he can display his most power. ... If he always intervened on our behalf before we went through something difficult or trying, how would we ever know... that God is at work

in our lives. [If] he always intervened or intercepted all of the bad things so that we sailed through life without any difficulties we would never know the wonderful, mighty hand of God! Sometimes he will allow things to get desperate so that we will know when he's brought us through it that it was only by the hand of God that this happened. ... How many people would not have seen the glory of God on that day if Jesus had shown up earlier? ... This is how God helps to build our faith, by the way. If we were always exempt from difficulties and trials and crises, we would never have the opportunities for our faith to grow because only in those difficulties when we see God show up is our faith stretched and grown."

- b. **2 Chronicles 16:9a** - *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."*
- c. **2 Corinthians 1:8-9** - *"For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead."*

- 5. God is compassionate toward us even when we don't ask him or when we think we don't deserve it
 - a. The Bible records times when people would call out to Jesus, including the leper, and blind Bartimaeus.
 - b. The Bible also records times when Jesus wasn't asked to do something; he just did it.
 - c. Pastor Gary said, "Nobody prompted him. This was his unsolicited help in a very dire situation, and why is that? Because it's his nature. The nature of God is compassion. [Some] of you might be going through things, and you don't know how to ask, or you think you even deserve it. ... None of us deserves any of God's goodness and grace but because he's a God of compassion, he loves to pour it out anyway."
 - d. **Psalms 145:8** - *"The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy."*
 - e. **Lamentations 3:22-23** - *"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*
- 6. God offers a permanent resurrection from the dead for all who believe in him
 - a. Pastor Gary said, "While Jesus raised three people from the dead, as I have said, it was resuscitation not resurrection. Now, don't misunderstand me; they were fully dead. ... They were dead as dead can be. ... All three of them would eventually die again. It was a spectacular miracle every time Jesus raised

someone from the dead... but it was a temporary one. And, as far as resurrection goes, the kind that Jesus first displayed, the Bible says we, likewise, can experience that kind of a resurrection, which is different from the miracles that he performed by raising people from the dead.”

- b. **John 5:24** - *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*
 - i. Pastor Gary said, “What Jesus was saying was that we’ve all sinned, and we are all going to die, and we are all going to have to face judgment. A just and holy God cannot overlook our sinfulness; ... he would not be a just and holy God. So, therefore sin must be punished, and, thus, we must be punished because we are all sinners, every single one of us.”
 - ii. **Hebrews 9:27** - *“And it is appointed for me to die once, but after this the judgment.”*
- c. Pastor Gary said, “What if God provided a way out so that we didn’t have to face the judgment that we deserve? And what if God implemented a plan that would satisfy his wrath concerning our sin? [We] wouldn’t have to suffer the consequences that we deserve. ... But what if he went beyond that and said in addition, I will reward you with heaven, and I will accept you as my sons and daughters? [God did] all of this through Jesus. You see, when Jesus died on the cross, all of the punishment intended for us because of our sin was placed on him. He suffered the consequence that [we] deserve. Jesus took it on for us even though he had committed no sin. ... Because [God] is a God of compassion and mercy, [he] made a gracious provision... [by placing] all of the consequences of sin on [Jesus], and then, by faith, if you believe in what Jesus did for you, you can be forgiven. ... Judgment is reserved for those who don’t know Jesus, not for those who do. ... And so, the glorious reward is [that] not only will [God] accept [us] as sons and daughters... in addition, when [we] die, [we] will go to heaven to be with [him] forever. ... [Our frail bodies] will one day be raised imperishable, incorruptible to be reunited with our spirit so that we get a glorified body just like what Jesus has. [This] is the resurrected life that Jesus provides for us. It is a free gift for all who would believe and receive. ... Yes, we die physically, but our spirit lives forever. The question is where will your spirit spend eternity?
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:21** - *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 5:8** - *“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”*
- d. Pastor Gary, quoting Sting, said, “He’s right that it’s unavoidable, but he’s wrong that there’s a human strategy to work it out. ... [There] is a divine plan that God made a way for all of us to be saved. The only way to die well is to

know Jesus well, and then we pass from this life to the next, and we get a glorified body and we are with the Lord forever, and ever, and ever!”

- i. “Without wishing to seem morbid, I’m trying to work out how to die well. Death’s a taboo in our society, but let’s think about it and work out a strategy. It’s the most important thing we all face and it’s kind of unavoidable. If you want to live well, you must surely want to die well.”
– Sting (Gordon Sumner)

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 7:11-17](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
3. Spend time talking about the three people Jesus raised from the dead and why he did this. (See #1 above.)
4. Read and discuss the history of Nain. (See #2 above)
5. Spend time talking about what it means to be compassionate.
6. Read and discuss the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ compassion. (See #3a-b above)
7. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about Jesus’ compassion and tender loving mercy toward people in their helpless condition. (See #3c above)
8. Invite the people in your group to share of times when they experienced, or saw others experience, the compassion of Jesus and what was their response.
9. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about Jesus always being on time. (See #4 above)
10. Invite the people in your group to share of times God allowed their circumstances to get dire and how he displayed his power.
11. Invite the people in your group to witness and give praise to God for how their faith was stretched and grew through difficulties of life.
12. Read and discuss [2 Corinthians 1:8-9](#). (See #4c above)
13. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about God’s unsolicited compassion. (See #5a-c above)

14. Invite the people in your group to give praise to God for the times they received his unsolicited compassion.
15. Read and discuss [Psalm 145:8](#) and [Lamentations 3:22–23](#). (See #5d-e above)
16. Spend time talking about the difference between resuscitation and resurrection. (See #6 above)
17. Read [John 5:24](#) and invite the people in your group to share how they came to believe. (See #6b above.)
18. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about Christ Jesus being God's provision for eternal life. (See #6c above)
19. Read [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:8](#) and invite the people in your group to give God praise for all he has done for us.
20. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments on the only way to die well is to know Jesus well. (See #6d above)
21. Close your by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)