

Luke 7:11-28

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

Jesus and John the Baptist

¹⁸ John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’ ”

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

²⁴ After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ”

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Luke 7:11-35

1. What do most people think about miracles today? What do you think?
2. Why is the death reported in Luke 7:11-12 especially serious? Would a death like this be as serious today?
3. Why did the people say of Jesus, “a great prophet has appeared?” (1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Kings 4:18-37)
4. Did Jesus raise other people from the dead? (Matthew 9:18-26, John 11:38-44)
5. Do you expect God to work miracles in your life? Why or why not?
6. What’s the longest length of time that you have waited for an answer from God? Do you think sometimes God doesn’t answer you at all?
7. Where was John the Baptist when he sent his disciples to Jesus in Luke 7:18? (Luke 3:20)
8. For what two questions did John want answers? Why would he have any doubts? Do you have questions about Jesus? Are you looking for answers? How?
9. How did Jesus answer John’s questions? Why did he answer John in the way that he did?
10. How and why do appearances affect how a person is received? (7:24-26) How can you be more aware of the message than the messenger? Can the two ever be completely separated?