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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Raising a Widow's Son

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MIRACLE ELEVEN: Raising a Widow's Son (Lk. 7:11-15)

SURVEY

Jesus meets a funeral procession as He enters the little town of Nain. They were sorrowing over the death of a widow's only son. Approaching the coffin He orders the body to rise, which it does, filling the heart of the grief-stricken mother with joy.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This marks the first of three persons raised from the dead by Christ. The other two are Jairus' daughter (Lk. 8:54-56) and Lazarus (Jn. 11:43). The last resurrection had occurred some seven centuries previous to this when the bones of Elisha had restored to life a young man (2 Kings 13:20-22).
- This is the first recorded instance in which Jesus was recognized by the Jewish crowds as a prophet, although the earliest acknowledgment came from a non-Jewish Samaritan woman (see John 4:19).
 1. Jesus called Himself a prophet (Mt. 13:57; Jn. 4:44).
 2. Herod Antipas suspected it (Mt. 14:5).
 3. The crowds on two future occasions would acknowledge it:
 - a. During the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn. 7:40)
 - b. During the triumphal entry (Mt. 21:11)
 4. The 5,000 men Christ fed believed it (Jn. 6:14).
 5. A former blind man testified to it (Jn. 9:17).
 6. The two disciples en route to Emmaus spoke of it (Lk.24:19).

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- It has been rightly observed that Jesus provided no specific instructions to pastors in regard to the proper conducting of funerals, for He simply dismissed the service by raising the deceased!
- Note the reaction of the amazed crowd:

"God hath visited his people." (Lk. 7:16)

This was a direct fulfillment of Zacharias' prophecy given during the circumcision ceremony of his infant son, John the Baptist.

"And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people... Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us" (Lk. 1:67-68, 78).