**MIRACLE SERIES #17....(Luke 7:11-17)...."YOU RAISE ME UP"- (Chris sing "You raise me up")**

**Intro**: **When the bible says in Ephesians 2 that we are "saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves", it means that we had absolutely NOTHING to do with it! I contributed nothing...JESUS contributed everything!**  Over and over again throughout the bible and the pages of written history we see God visiting the pitiful scenes of human misery to do the impossible and the incredible one more time! The village of NAIN was an insignificant peasant encampment in the middle of the Jezreel Valley at the base of a small mountain named Moreh. It could easily be viewed from the ridge where Nazareth was located about 5 miles away.

**I. v. 12 JESUS RAISED HIM IN A TIME OF DEATH-(he was one-day dead!)**

A. **HE HAD LOTS OF PITY**--**When Jesus came to Nain that day; He did not arrive at a joyous moment. He arrived during a time of great grief and mourning. The name “*Nain*” literally means “*beauty*.” But, there was no beauty in Nain that day. Death had invaded the little town of Nain**. We are told that the victim is a young man, **v. 14**. That he is “***the only son of his mother***”, **v. 12**. She has no other child to fall back on-(No backup plan!)...and we are told that he is dead! A great crowd of mourners are making their way through the gates of the city, to a little cemetery, where he is to be buried. As was the custom in that day, the people of the city had stopped what they were doing and had joined the funeral procession as it made its way through town. The mother would have been in front. She would have been followed by those who carried the open coffin, which contained the body of her son. Behind them would have been those who were mourning the boy’s death. **These people would have been wailing, crying and chanting phrases of grief and mourning. Some may have been friends and relatives; others may have been paid to come and help mourn the death of the boy. Those bringing up the rear would have been the town’s folk who followed out of respect for the dead**.

B. **HE HAD LOST HIS POTENTIAL**--Here is a young man whose life had been filled with great potential. He might have had hopes of marriage and of fathering children, but now he is dead. This mother could have been a happy grandparent, but now he is dead! He could have started a business to support himself and his widowed mother, but now he is dead. Those eyes which had been bright with the gleam of youth are now dulled by death. That mind that had hoped and dreamed was now stilled by the cold embrace of death. That voice that had laughed and cried has been silenced forever. Death has come and it has brought with it all the cruelness and heartache it possesses. **Death has been part of the human experience ever since man sinned against God in the Garden of Eden. Ever since Adam chose to go his way instead of God’s way, death has stalked and claimed life after life. This was the warning of God to Adam, Gen. 2:17. And, this was the experience of Adam, Gen. 5:5. It has been, and it continues to be the experience of every human that has ever lived, with the exception of Elijah and Enoch**. No, Adam didn't die PHYSICALLY when he partook of the fruit...but he instantly died on the inside and KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG INSTANTLY!-(Naked). The bible tells us in **Romans 6:23** that “***the wages of sin is death.***” That verses does not only refer to the death of this body, but it refers to the eternal destiny of the lost soul in Hell! Dying in this world is one thing, but spending eternity in Hell, separated from the presence of God, with no hope of salvation is the worst thing that could EVER happen! **("Where was this boy in the afterlife" you may ask? If in Heaven it would seem punishment to bring him back...if in Hell then why would he be brought back and not other people to have another chance to repent?...remember, BEFORE CHRIST AROSE people didn't go directly into the presence of the Lord at death. They went to Abrahams bosom in Paradise or the flames of Hades to await sin being judged on the cross. Of all the folks Christ miraculously raised, BELIEF was present among living relatives; so, more than likely this young man was in Paradise until Christ called him back to life).**

C. **HE HAD LIMITED PERCEPTION**--What a picture of the lost man or woman! Physically they are alive and well. They can see, hear, think, move, speak and go about their lives. But, they are dead spiritually. They cannot see, hear or feel God. They are dead to God, to His Word and to His moving and working in the world. They are unmoved by the cross and the empty tomb. HE WAS DEAD TO EVERYTHING AROUND HIM AND IN HIM!!!...(That was me prior to 1976!)

**II. v. 12 JESUS RAISED HIM IN A TIME OF DESPERATION--** **You will notice the wording of the text: “*there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.*”** Here is a woman who has already felt the icy hand of death as it took away her husband! The only things remaining from her marriage are a few memories and the only son that she and her husband brought into the world. Now all she has is what she started out with! \*Back then, people relied on children to take care of them when they got old-(John the revelator took care of Jesus' mother when he died on the cross!) There was no welfare or assistance available to widows like her. Now she is all alone, helpless and caught in a desperate condition. She has nothing to look forward to except poverty and loneliness! **B. Just as this dead son is a picture of the lost person and their dead condition; this poor widow woman is a picture of that lost individual who is helplessly trapped in the bondage of their sins. That is just what sin is: it is bondage!-(Leaves you with NO WAY OUT!)** **C. If you have never been saved; if you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior; then you are in the same condition as that boy: you are dead in your sins right now! If you have never trusted Jesus for salvation, you are in the same shape as that poor woman. You are trapped in a set of circumstances that you are powerless to change. You have nothing to look forward to in life; then, after you die, you have hope of nothing but an eternity in Hell! That is a desperate place to be, and it is the place I found myself when I was just 12 years old!**

**III. v. 13-17 JESUS RAISED HIM IN A TIME OF DELIVERANCE--**This story does not end with a dead son and a desperate mother! As that little band of mourners was making their way out of town to go to the cemetery, they met another group of people who were making their way into town. The first group was weeping over the death of a young man. The second group was rejoicing over the power of Jesus that was demonstrated in the healing of a centurion’s servant, **Luke 7:1-10**. The first group was led by a sobbing mother; the second group was led by a Sovereign Master. ***When those two groups met at the gates of the city of Nain, a time of death and a time of desperation became a time of deliverance.***

**\*That afternoon at the gates of Nain, there were several meetings that took place:**

**     Two Sojourners Met - One group was headed to a cemetery and that other group was headed to a city! So it is in life! There are but two groups. One group is headed to Hell, and is even now under the condemnation and judgment of God, John 3:36. The other group, those who are following Jesus are headed to an eternal city of glory, joy and perfect peace, Rev. 21:4; John 14:1-3.       Two Sons Met – One was the son of a man, and he was dead. The other was the Son of God and He was and is the Prince of Life, John 11:25-26.       Two Sufferers Met – One was a broken hearted widow, going to bury her only son. The other was the Lamb of God Who came into this world to suffer rejection, crucifixion and death for the sins of the world, Isa. 53:1-12; John 1:11; Mark 10:45.       Two Separates Met – The first enemy was death. He had invaded and devastated this little family. The other was Life. When He same, He defeated death and drove him away!**

1. v. 12 **The Sovereign Lord Spoke Peace To A Suffering Lady** – We are told that Jesus had “***compassion***” on this woman. When He saw her, He understood her circumstances and He knew what kind of future she faced. She had not invited Jesus, yet He came anyway. He traveled over 25 miles to get from Capernaum to Nain so He could work in her need

**2.** v. 13-15 **The Sovereign Lord Spoke Life To A Slain Lad** **– After calming the mother, Jesus merely speaks to the dead boy and he immediately shows two clear signs of life. First, he sat up and then he spoke. (Before days of embalming, a body could sit up...but TALKING NEVER HAPPENED!)** This is a clear picture of what Jesus does for those who are trapped in the cold grip of sin. He comes even though we are not looking for Him. He comes even though we have not called for Him. He comes even though we do not deserve Him. He comes to us because He loves us, **Jer. 31:3**. He comes to us in grace, **Eph. 2:8-9**. When He comes, completely and permanently changes our condition.       He brings us out of death into life - **John 5:24; Eph. 2:1-5.**      He then causes us to demonstrate the characteristics of His life – **2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22-23**.