

Life After Death

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Preached by Pastor Brad

KEY PASSAGES

Luke 7:11-17 (NIV)

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 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. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 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." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 **A widow burying her only son had lost everything.** Without a husband or a son there was no way to earn or be provided for in that world, so this was grief and going bankrupt at the same time.
- 2 **"Don't cry" was not Jesus telling her to toughen up.** He wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, so we know he takes death hard. He was telling her the reason for her tears was about to be gone.
- 3 **Touching the bier made him unclean for seven days.** Leviticus set out every step to get clean again, and priests kept away from dead bodies so they could keep working. Jesus reached into the messiness anyway.
- 4 **We say Jesus could raise someone today, but he probably won't.** That second half is where we live, and it shows up in how tightly we hold our money and how small we pray.
- 5 **Believing it is only the start.** Jesus sent the twelve out to heal the sick and raise the dead, and he said whoever believes in him will do the works he has been doing. We are called to believe it and then do something with it.

STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

A foul ball at the Jays game. He was up in the 500 level a week and a half ago when Vladdy hit one deep into foul territory, and it rang off the steel bar maybe fifteen feet to his right. He called it unbelievable, unreal. Those are the words we reach for when something is beyond us, and maybe you had to be there.

The shortest verse in the Bible. He asked who picked "Jesus wept" back when they had to memorize a verse as a kid and got to choose their own. Everyone knew the answer. He used it to show that Jesus was not brushing off the widow's grief.

One in 250 million. He worked out the odds of Jesus returning in the next five minutes against every five minutes since he left. Being logical about it is fair enough, he said, but he warned against sliding from "unlikely" to "he won't."

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