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Raising people from the dead



Jesus performed several resurrections during His time on earth, raising Jairus' daughter, a widow's son, His friend Lazarus, and ultimately, He resurrected Himself. These events are remarkable reminders of God's power to raise people from the dead, affirming that Jesus is God, the Deity. This is an important truth to grasp.

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What would you do if your child were about to perish? If Jesus were present and you had heard about His miracles, wouldn't you rush to Him for help? Jairus did just that, desperately asking Jesus to heal his daughter. When Jesus arrived at their home, He said, "The child is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39). People laughed at Him, but their laughter turned to amazement when Jesus brought the girl back to life. We should be amazed, too. This scene inspires faith in those seeking to know Jesus and the promise of eternal life.

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In Jesus' time, women often lacked hope if they had no male relatives to support them. A widow had already lost her husband, and now her son had died. Her weeping came from deep sorrow. As Jesus encountered the funeral procession in

Nain (Luke 7:11ff), He told the woman to stop crying. He touched the bier and declared, "I say to you, arise." Those who witnessed this act recognized it as an act of God, leading them to declare Jesus to be God. This miracle bolstered individual and communal faith. The story spread throughout Judea and the surrounding regions, establishing Jesus' reputation and demonstrating that God was indeed among His people. It marked the transition from one age to another. Notably, Jesus touched the bier, which would have rendered Him unclean, but as God in human form, He bore no guilt.

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Lazarus was a dear friend of Jesus, and the Lord had great affection for him, as Scripture indicates. Jesus waited four days after Lazarus' death to make a profound point. The ancient Jews believed that a soul lingered for three days (according to Midrash Rabbah) before reaching the place of the dead. By raising Lazarus on the fourth day, Jesus demonstrated that He had the authority of Deity. If the soul was thought to remain near the body, perhaps a return to life was possible. But after the soul had departed, could anyone bring it back? Jesus could, because He possesses the power of life and resurrection.

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Can Jesus raise Himself? Scripture reveals that God the Father raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:32, Romans 6:4). Additionally, it states that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus (Romans 8:11). However, Jesus also states that He raises Himself (John 10:17-18). These actions affirm that Jesus is one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We should heed His words because God is communicating with us (Hebrews 1:1-2).

All of us can expect a resurrection; it is a Biblical promise that brings hope, joy, and peace to everyone who accepts God's grace. Believe in Jesus for your resurrection and trust Him to do for your soul what He did for the dead during His time on earth.