**Stronger Than Death**

***11****Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him.****12****As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.****13****And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”****14****Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”****15****And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.****16****Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”****17****And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. (Luke 7:11-17, ESV)*

 Jesus is stronger than death – and that is a reason to have a constant trust in Him. Greetings dearly beloved as we talk today about trust. God has shown us multiple facets of his personality through the Scriptures. Sometimes his words have been revelation; other times it’s how he says things that is revelation. Still, he sometimes reveals himself through what he does or how he does his deeds. Today, we’re going to talk about his absolute authority over the power of death. Again I say, Jesus is more powerful than death itself. Let’s take a look at what this means, especially for us in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

 Death cannot defeat us, because Jesus has already defeated death. The Lord Jesus had just performed a miracle when this episode took place. In the verses prior to the reading for today, we see that a pagan but God-fearing centurion had asked for a miracle from Jesus but from a distance. Our Lord had considered that request a sign of great faith, and the miracle itself was something that shook the people. They were expecting one way of healing, and the Lord answered by intervening in another way (through words rather than actual touch).

 In today’s episode as well, the people had a different (in this case no) expectation from Jesus. No one said a word. However, Jesus had compassion on the grieving widow/mother. The situation was the most fear-producing, terror causing example for most people. It was the problem of death. In the minds of the people, no one could put up any resistance against death, except God himself and his Servant. Jesus, however, would show them the futility of their hopelessness by doing exactly that. Notice, Jesus was the one who said, “Do not weep.” Today, if someone saw that, they would probably try to preach to Jesus, perhaps upbraid him to leave the widow alone to her grief. But God does not work like man does. God is beyond the expectations and imagination of man. Because of this truth, Jesus could certainly disrupt the social norms of the day. Obviously, even death was not able to put up much of a fight against God’s word and fled the young man immediately. Here, the crowd was shaken up again. They had already seen that Jesus had not needed to be next to someone in order to heal them – something that only God could normally do. Now they also saw that even death had to obey Jesus, something that, again, could only happen with God.

 Very often we find ourselves in impossible situations or we see someone’s plight and we say, “Only God could help them,” or, and sometimes even in another language, “God help him”. What we have said, however, in that circumstance, is much more true and powerful than we often think. The reason is that if we believe our own words, then the Lord, in his own way, in his own power, will intervene.

 The church, as the people of God, is being invited to give the impossible situations into Jesus’ hands. You and I cannot solve impossible situations. But Jesus defeated death – Jesus healed from a distance. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit from the Father. Jesus even shook death off of his own body(!). Jesus presented his words and deeds together and consistently, always.

 Therefore, we are called to bring our impossible problems and give them to Jesus. We’re called not to tell the Lord how to solve them, but to wait on his answer with faith and trust, always watching, always expecting his answers with an open heart, with a humble spirit, and with constant praises in our mouth of Him.

 Death cannot defeat us, because Jesus has already defeated death. Everything becomes possible and perfect with Jesus. Again, Jesus is more powerful than death itself – and that is a reason to have a constant trust in Him. God Bless You All, Amen.