

THE FUNERAL THAT WASN'T FINAL // Luke 7:11-17

from the series, the Gospel of Luke

This week's sermon provided a task that many of us likely tend to avoid: the challenge of thinking about death. As Christians, there is no fear in considering our death because we have assurance of eternal life. In this week's sermon, Pastor Neal reminded us of the truth that in Jesus, no funeral is final. He also posed the question: what difference does it make if Jesus is at the funeral?

What does Jesus bring to the funeral?

1. A Divine Agenda for the Service (vv. 11-12)

- a. God is sovereign – Jesus went to Nain on purpose to raise this man. It was a divine appointment.
- b. When Jesus attends a funeral, he has a divine appointment with everyone in the room. He is there on purpose.
- c. Just like he met the funeral procession as he entered Nain, Jesus meets your death head-on when he brings you new life.

2. A Compassionate Care to the Family (v. 13)

- a. The gospel of Christ comforts those who are grieving.
- b. Grief becomes a posture of victory, and that is a security only Jesus can bring.

3. A Gospel Announcement Over the Dead (v. 14)

- a. Jesus speaks over those who know him, even in death.
- b. This verse requires us to think deeply – Jesus *really* raised someone from the dead simply because he had met Jesus.
- c. If we want to trust Jesus with our funeral, why not trust him with our lives?

4. Spiritual Anxiety for the People (v. 16)

Suddenly, everyone at the funeral is faced with the reality of death and eternity. This can be a moment of conviction.

We are all going to die one day. It is essential for us to consider whether Jesus will be at the funeral. Of course, it is not all about avoiding hell and getting a ticket to heaven. Rather, it is about living life with Christ and in his will.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about your funeral, have you ever considered whether Jesus would be there? Have you ever considered what role Jesus would play in your funeral?
2. Why do you think we often avoid talking about or thinking about death?
3. What does this passage and sermon tell us about Jesus?
4. What kind of feelings do you have while studying this passage? Why?