

UNDER AUTHORITY: Facing Down Death

LUKE 7:11-17

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #UnderAuthority

We Can Stare Down Our Days of Death Because Jesus is Our Lord of Life.

1. Face the Difficult **Reality** (11-12a).
2. Embrace the Disarming **Relief** (12b-15).
3. Spread the Delightful **Report** (16-17).

Luke 7:11–17

“Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As 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. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

¹⁶Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” ¹⁷And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.”

(ESV)

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to ignore the reality of death in your life? What are some painful ways we're reminded of humanity's fatal curse? How can we live without being intentionally blind or naive that we will all face dark days of death?
2. Last week, we saw Jesus give healing to a Centurion's servant. This week he goes to the town of Nain for a widow. How does knowing that God cares for the weak, vulnerable, the widow, the orphan, and the sojourner, help you turn to him in times of need? What does this passage reveal about the character of God?
3. People face death with various negative responses, including anger, fear, denial, and isolation. How do you and I practically grieve, but not as those "without hope?"

Quote for the Week. . .

by Erwin Lutzer



"Death is not the end of the road; it is only a bend in the road. The road winds only through those paths through which Christ Himself has gone. This Travel Agent does not expect us to discover the trail for ourselves. Often we say that Christ will meet us on the other side. That is true, of course, but misleading. Let us never forget that He walks with us on this side of the curtain and then guides us through the opening. We will meet Him there, because we have met Him here."

Erwin Lutzer, *One Minute After You Die*, Moody, 1997, p. 78-79.