

EASTER

AT KING'S PARK

April 17, 2022 | Easter | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTIONS: What is one of the most befuddling things you have ever witnessed?

READ: Luke 7:11-17; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 4:14-16

FOCUS: Our plight can be reversed by Jesus and His might when we respond to His invite.

OBSERVE:

Our Plight.

- The woman is in distress as a widow who has now lost her closest relative and her security for provision. Her future looks hopeless and there is nothing she can do to restore her hope. We are like the widow without hope without Jesus.
- The pallbearers were just doing what they were hired to do and the only thing they knew to do when one encounters death. They were unaware that Jesus had the power and authority to raise the dead. We are like the pallbearers carrying around death in ignorance, not knowing we can bring it to Jesus.
- The boy is physically dead, unable to live the life God had created him for. We are all spiritually dead without a hope for the future if we do not put our trust in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:23)

Jesus' Might.

- Jesus' act of reversing our plight begins with Him having compassion on His creation—people. Jesus is fully God and fully man, thus He both has the power to give life, but also the ability to empathize with our weakness. (Heb. 4:14-16)
- Jesus sees our need, and in His compassion, He puts on full display His power and authority to reverse our plight. Our ultimate need is to be raised to life out of our spiritual death. Through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection He made a way for us to experience a spiritual resurrection in this life.

Our Response.

- The woman, the pallbearers and the son all respond in obedience to the words of Jesus. As a result, they all witness/experience the resurrection power of Jesus, and a foreshadowing of His own resurrection.
- In response to Jesus' resurrection, we have the opportunity to respond in obedience as well. We must confess our sin/spiritual death and our need for Jesus, and put our faith in Him to give us a new life—a life connected to God through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross.

REFLECT:

- Have you experienced Jesus' divine reversal in your own life?
- What do you think Paul means in 2 Cor. 5:17 that if we are in Christ, we are a "new creation?"

TAKE ACTION:

- Whatever your plight may be, know that Jesus has the might to reverse it; our responsibility is to respond in obedience. Allow Jesus' resurrection hope to fill you in the midst of your struggles.

PRAY:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for making a way for us to be raised from spiritual death to life when there was no way. May Your grace empower us to respond to You in trust and obedience as we experience struggles in this life. Thank You, Jesus, for dying in our place so that we could experience new life. Amen.