

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### WIDOW OF NAIN: LESSON SIX

by Sandy Harber

**"And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." Luke 7:14**

The funeral procession had come to a halt when Jesus approached the mother and kindly instructed her to stop weeping. Then He passed on to the bier on which her dead son lay. Jesus reached out and touched the bier and the men bearing the son to his final resting place stood still, shocked.

According to the Law of Moses, anyone who touched a dead body was ceremonially unclean for seven days (Numb. 19:11). Scripture specifies that Jesus touched the bier, not the dead body. Since Jesus did not follow the prescribed steps for purification by washing with water it can be assumed that He did not consider Himself to be defiled by contact with the dead man's bier. Perhaps because the dead man didn't stay dead!

Jesus spoke to the son. The dead cannot hear. But this man heard the voice of the Son of God from beyond the grave. Jesus commanded him to "arise." Jesus spoke by His Own authority: "**I** say unto thee," Jesus said. During His earthly ministry, Jesus was often questioned by the religious leaders. "By what authority do you do such and such?" they demanded (see Lk. 20:2 for example). They should have known the answer to their own question. Even the people realized that Jesus was teaching them as "One Who had authority" (Mt. 7:29). That is, Jesus was teaching His **Own** doctrine. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said repeatedly, "But **I** say unto you" (Mt. 6:21-48). The people were used to the teachings of the scribes, who quoted the writings of certain well-known Rabbis. But here was a Teacher Who quoted **Himself!**

Jesus proved that He had authority over nature by calming the storm (Mt. 8:23-27), and disease by healing the sick (Mk. 5:25-34), and demons by casting them out (Lk. 4:33-36). Finally, He demonstrated that He had power over life and death. In effect, Jesus said, "By **My** authority **I** command you to get up." And with that He reunited the dead man's body, soul, and spirit, making him whole once again. The widow's son lived!

The resurrected Jesus announced to His disciples, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Mt. 28:18). Now that is authority! Nothing is withheld from Him. Nothing is beyond the scope of His power. On the Isle of Patmos the Apostle John had a vision of Jesus, Who declared, "I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18). Whoever possesses the keys has the authority. Jesus holds power over the spiritual realm (hell) and the physical realm (death). Jesus was serious when He said that He had all authority.

That's good news for you and me. Jesus has authority over everything and everyone. I don't know about you but I am thoroughly convinced that Jesus loves me and will work out every circumstance to my ultimate good (Rom. 8:28). I am content to be under His authority.

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*