

Raising the Widow's Son

The Gospel according to St. Luke 7:11-16:



Soon afterwards Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!"

St. Nikolai Velimirović says of this miracle in which Christ raises the widow's dead son:

"Were men to have half the fear of the ever-present God that they have of death, they would not be afraid of death; indeed, more than that, they would not know death in this world. The Lord was especially compassionate in this case with the poor mother, saying to her: 'Weep not!' He looked into her soul and read all that was in it. Her husband was dead, and she was lonely; now her only son had died, and she felt herself completely alone. Where was the living God? Can anyone be lonely in God's company? Can a true man have any company more intimate than that of God? Is not God closer than our father and mother, our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters? He gives us kinsfolk, and takes them from us, but He does not leave us; His eye does not grow weary in watching over us, nor is there any change in His love for us. All death's

stings help us to cleave more closely to our God, the living God.”
(**Homilies** Vol 2, pg. 204)

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