



“How To Spoil A Funeral”

Luke 7:11-17

May 15, 2022

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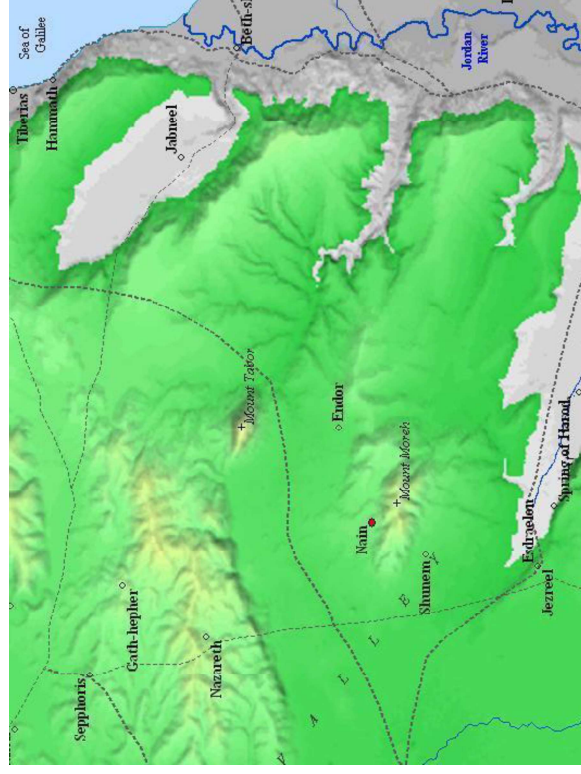
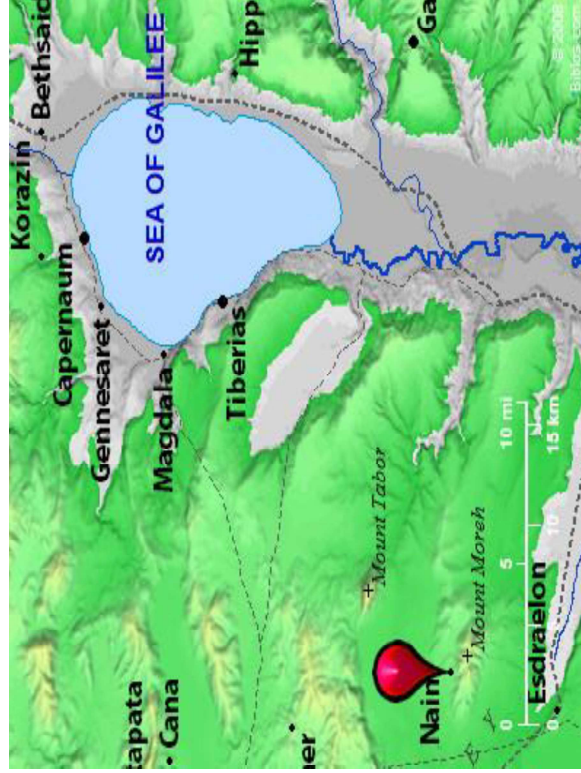
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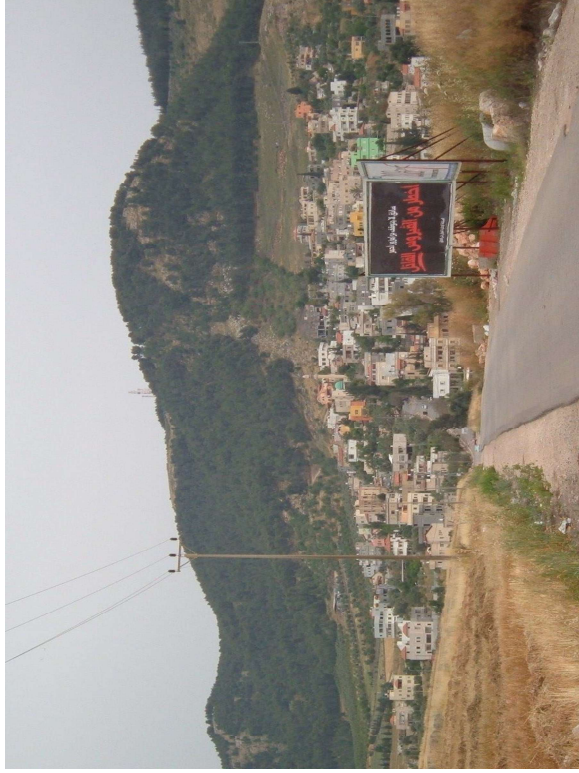
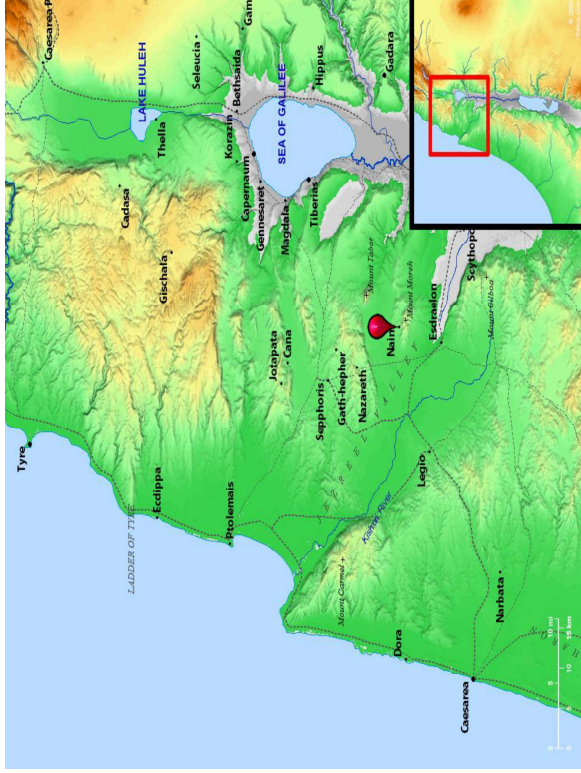
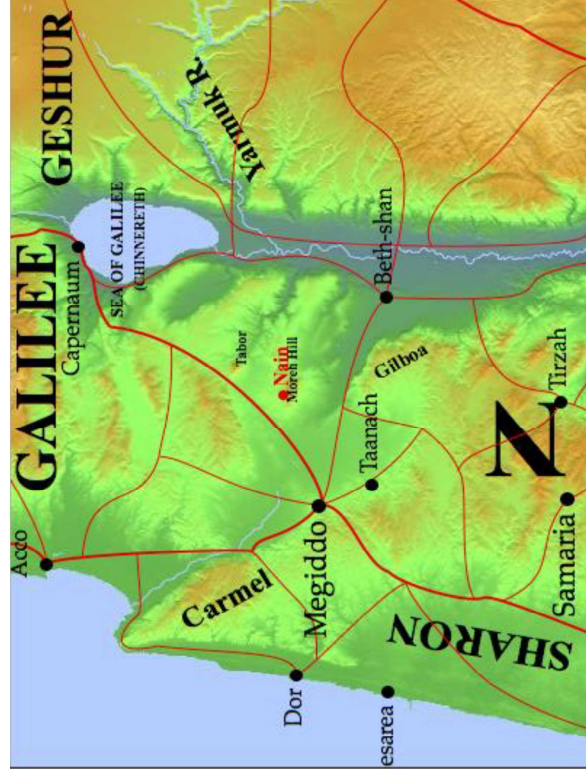
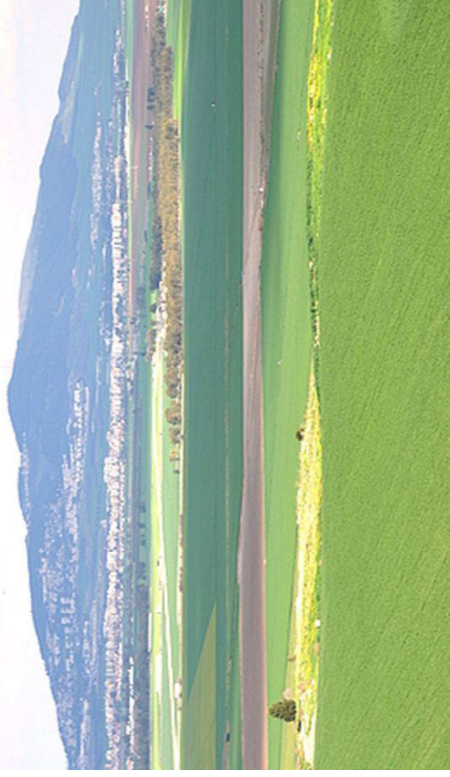
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- Nain—"beautiful



View of Mt. Moreh and Nain as seen from Megiddo



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- Nain - "beautiful"
- Why go to Nain? It's all in the providence of God.
- The 12 are with Him and a large group who want to see and learn.

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Jer 6:26

26 O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth

And roll in ashes;

Mourn as for an only son,

A lamentation most bitter.

For suddenly the destroyer

Will come upon us.

Zech 12:10

10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, **as one mourns for an only son,**

12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

- Probably no wall, so gate may have been a few large stones at the entrance.
- At the very second Jesus approached the gate to enter the city with his crowd, another crowd led by a widow and her dead son are exiting the city through the gate.
- We know nothing about the widow or the son. She had lost her husband, and now her only son.
- In all probability the son had died that day.
- Since the Fall, the history of the world has been one long funeral.
- The body was prepared, pallet (primitive hearse) was made ready, pall bears were chosen, professional mourners were hired, 1-2 flute players and one who would play the cymbal. and the procession starts.
- People would typically drop what they were doing and join in the funeral procession.
- Graveyards were always located outside the city.
- **Note:** A son was of value in Israel so that the family line could be continued. To lose an only son was especially difficult.



12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

- So let's imagine the scene.

- 2 large crowds are converging –

- The one crowd is grieving, sad, emotionally spent. They are wailing loudly, wearing torn clothes, feeling hopeless, and filled with despair.
- The other crowd is coming from the opposite direction. They are filled with excitement, anticipation and hope.

****One group is bringing death and the other group is bringing life.**

- This is like 2 worlds colliding. What a contrast!
- Which procession will give way to the other?
- What will Jesus do?



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- "compassion"** – *σπλαγχνίζω* – the deepest inward parts of a person. To be moved by something way down deep inside of a person.
- Jesus is heart-broken.
 - This is what sets Jesus off from other religions.
 - And so Jesus tenderly says to her, "Do not weep."
 - What must be going through the widow's mind?
 - What is going through the mind's of those that are part of the funeral procession?
 - "How dare you do this?"

13 When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."

- This verse is the reason Luke included this account in his gospel.
- It is to show the compassion of Jesus.
- There is no faith demonstrated here, either by the woman or anyone else.
- This is all Jesus.
- Jesus saw the situation – how hopeless it was.
- He showed compassion because here is a widow who is devastated, and in desperate circumstances both emotionally and financially.
- She has no husband to provide for her and now she has no son to care for her. She is all alone.
- But what she does have is a divine appointment with Jesus.

Rescue the Perishing

Fanny Crosby

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Refrain

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

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- Interrupting a funeral was a blatant breach of Jewish law.
- Touching certain things, under the Law, made you unclean: some practices that caused a person to become ceremonially unclean included the following:
 1. Childbirth (Leviticus 12:1-2, 5)
 2. Infectious diseases, like leprosy (Leviticus 13:9-11)
 3. Unusual bodily discharges (Leviticus 15:2-15)
 4. Bodily discharges related to reproduction—(Leviticus 15:16-18; Leviticus 15:19-30)
 5. Touching a corpse (Numbers 19:11)
 6. Handling the ashes of a red heifer used in the water of cleansing (Numbers 19:1-10)
 7. Contact with anyone or anything that was unclean (Leviticus 5:3)So Jesus here seemingly violates the Law in 2 ways:
 - Touching the pallet meant Jesus was considered unclean for a day (Nu 19:21-22);
 - Touching the corpse meant Jesus was considered unclean for a week (Nu 5:2-3; 19:11-20).**Being unclean meant you were put outside of Israel – no association with your people, no Temple entrance, etc.

14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!"

- But here Jesus didn't become unclean. Instead the young man became clean.

Heb 7:26

26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

"touched" – *arrtoiouai* – to attach onto, to grab onto.

Note: The bears stop. Jesus stops the procession

- Someday God is going to shake everyone's bones and dust and they are going to come to life to be united with their spirits.

John 5:24-29

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment; but has passed out of death into life.

25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

- As believers, we were once dead, weren't we? And Christ made us alive.

Only Jesus could do this –

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

- A Christian Scientist came along and said: "You only think that you are in a pit."
- A Pharisee said: "Only bad people fall into a pit."
- A Fundamentalist said: "You deserve your pit."
- An IRS man asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.
- A Charismatic said: "Just confess that you're not in a pit."
- An Optimist said: "Things could be worse."
- A Pessimist said: "Things will get worse!"

• Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

The Lord lifted this man out of the pit of death.

Only Jesus can do this.

- Rod Mattoon

14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!"

- The One who called the universe into existence, now says, "arise!"
- **Note:** This is not done because of someone's faith.
- Sometimes there is faith, like with the centurion.
- God does not need faith for Him to heal someone.
- This is all about the compassion of Jesus.

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- Instantly the dead man came back to life.
- "He gives back life to a dead man with a few words. He speaks to a cold corpse, and at once it becomes a living person. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the heart, the lungs, the brain, the senses, again resume their work and discharge their duty." - JC Ryle
- If you are at a funeral and the person suddenly sits up in the coffin what would you think?
- Think of their reaction - shock, fear, confusion, wonder, awe, reverence, joy. Did some scream, faint?
- When this man sat up, it definitely spoiled the funeral.
- As D. L. Moody used to say, "Jesus spoiled every funeral that He went to."

- What did the man say when he sat up?

Where am I?

What is going on?

Why are all these people here?

Mother, what is wrong?

Jesus says to the widow, "You need your son back, and here he is."

Two crowds meet in Nain.

Which crowd are YOU in?

Are you walking with the “dead”

or

are you walking with Jesus?