

Summary of the sermon delivered on Sunday, August 17, 2025.

Sermon's Topic: **Divine Visitations to Deliver from the Power and Shadow of Death!**

Sermon Texts: John 11:1-44, Luke 7:11-16.

The sermon series we've been exploring is called 'Divine Visitations' But today, the Holy Spirit wants us to consider when the Lord visits to deliver people from the power and shadow of death. I pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will grant each person the understanding needed to benefit from this sermon.

Let's start by examining what the Bible says about the power and shadow of death.

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of **him who holds the power of death**—that is, the devil—

Hebrews 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. NIV

1 Corinthians 15:55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

1Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

1Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

Matthew 4:16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." NIV

Luke 1:79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Based on the Bible passages above, we can conclude:

- That death is an entity, a demon under the Devil's control.
- That death has power and can cast a shadow or shade.
- That through divine light, we can overcome the shadow of death.
- That only through Jesus Christ can we achieve victory over the power of death.

Bible passages supporting the sermon's topic:

Isaiah 25:6 In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.

Isaiah 25:7 There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. NLT

2Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, about the suffering we experienced in Asia. We were so crushed beyond our ability to endure that we even despaired of living.

2Corinthians 1:9 In fact, we felt that we had received a death sentence, so we would not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

2Corinthians 1:10 **He has rescued us from a terrible death, and he will continue to rescue us.** Yes, he is the one on whom we have set our hope, and he will rescue us again,
2 Corinthians 1:11 as you also help us by your prayers for us. Then many people will thank God on our behalf because of the favor shown us through the prayers of many. ISV.

From the Bible passages above that support the sermon's topic, five spiritual insights can be drawn.

- That God can visit to deliver people from the power and shadow of death.
- That shadow of death is compared to a cloud of gloom, as the New Living Translation of the Bible describes it. A cloud provides shade.
- That shadow of death is a veil, a shade with distinct boundaries.
- That shadow of death can be removed by divine light.
- That when the shadow of death is lifted, wonderful things are expected to start happening.

Now, let's examine two visits by our Lord Jesus Christ that rescued His friend Lazarus and the only son of the widow of Nain from the grasp of death.

Sermon Text 1: John 11:1-44.

The purpose of this sermon is to provide you with an understanding of who death is, what it can do, and how the Lord's visits can oppose its destructive and deadly actions.

John 11:1 Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

John 11:3 Therefore, the sisters sent to Him, saying, "**Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.**"

John 11:14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

John 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe.

Nevertheless, let us go to him."

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus and said, 'Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick.' We learn here that the one whom the Lord loves can be sick, afflicted, or wounded. However, the proper course of action is to report the situation to the Lord. And they did exactly that. But after the problem had been reported to the Lord, and because He did not arrive on time, the one whom the Lord loves died.

When Jesus finally arrived, Martha made a statement that could be interpreted as an accusation.

John 11:21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

I believe Martha meant to say, Lord, if You had come quickly when we sent word to You, my brother would not have died.

In John 11:23, **Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**

In other words, Jesus was saying, No matter how long it takes me to come, your brother will rise again. No matter how long he has been dead, 'your brother will rise again'. No matter how decomposed his body may be, 'your brother will rise again'.

Jesus spoke these words because when the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, He has the power to restore what the thief has stolen, killed, or destroyed. (John 10:10)

Beloved in the Lord, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8).

No matter what the wicked one has done, Jesus Christ will turn it around and restore your life. Amen!

Another important word from the Lord, which must be noted, is in John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

John 11:26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Every believer must understand this statement: 'I am the resurrection and the life.' He was so emphatic that no one should doubt what He said. The statement shows that He can, on His own, raise people from death to life — just as He claimed, so He did at the tomb of Lazarus. Lazarus came back to life. Hallelujah!

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

John 11:42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."

John 11:43 Now when He had said these things, **He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"**

John 11:44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. **Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."**

Jesus, standing by Lazarus's tomb, loudly commanded Lazarus to come out of the grave. Immediately, Death released its grip on Lazarus's life, and the dead man heard His voice, jumped up, and limped out of the tomb. Hallelujah!

Let me tell anyone reading this summary that you can spiritually stand at the tomb of any of your buried blessings or virtues and loudly command them to come forth, just as Jesus did. The level of your faith determines the result you get. Therefore, the most important requirement for the manifestation of the miracle to bring back what death has killed, stolen, or destroyed is your faith.

The Bible in John 11:44 says, he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.

The spiritual insight in the above Bible passage is that death has the power to bind. Whenever Satan uses the power of death to bind, we have the authority through the Holy Spirit to command him to loosen his grip, release, and let go. And it will always be in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sermon Text 2: Luke 7:11-16.

Luke 7:11 Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

Luke 7:12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

Luke 7:13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Luke 7:14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still.

And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Luke 7:15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Luke 7:16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

Here's another Bible story that shows the wickedness of death and its shadow. The only son of a widow living in Nain has passed away. The people were following the widow, crying as they headed to bury him. But then Jesus appeared, and something happened that changed the course of events.

Luke 7:13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." The Lord had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' The One who says 'Do not weep' can bring a smile to her face. The One who says 'Do not weep' can also undo whatever caused her tears. The One who says 'Do not weep' can rescue a life from the wicked one holding it. Jesus did all these things with compassion.

What does it mean to have compassion for someone?

A dictionary defines compassion as feeling sorrow for someone else's suffering or trouble, along with a desire to help. Jesus will always offer help wherever He goes. It is part of His character. When He visited Nain, He delivered the only son of the widow from the power of death. Will you ask Him to visit you today to break the power of death and remove its shadow from your life? He is ready to do just that for you now as you pray the following prayer guides.

Prayer Guides:

1. O compassionate Lord, please visit me now and let me see God's glory revealed in my life, in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. O compassionate Lord, visit me now and deliver my life from the power of death in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. O compassionate Lord, visit me now and remove the cloud of gloom hanging over my life and destiny in the name of Jesus Christ.
4. O compassionate Lord, visit me now and remove the shadow of death covering my glory in the name of Jesus Christ.
5. Father Lord, as You visit me now, let the power of Christ's resurrection, confront and conquer the power of death assigned to frustrate my life in the name of Jesus Christ.
6. Father Lord, as You visit me now, let the power of Christ's resurrection break me free from the oppression of the spirit of the dead in Jesus' name.
7. Father Lord, as You visit me now, let the power of Christ's resurrection scatter every evil conjured against my life from any graveyard in Jesus' name.
8. O Lord, visit me now and by the power of Christ's resurrection, grant me eternal victory over the enemies of my life and destiny in Jesus' name.
9. Father Lord, visit me now and bring destruction by fire upon demonic forces blocking my destiny fulfillment in the name of Jesus Christ.