

## **Jesus, the Miracleworker**

A miracle, by definition, is an event beyond the ordinary. When our beloved Aaliyah Kazimer was found alive after missing for four days, it sounded too good to be true. So do dramatic healings, although we are left to ponder why others aren't healed.

Henry Dolan was plagued by serious health problems even before birth. Born premature and weighing only two pounds, eleven ounces, Henry was given a 2% chance of survival. But Jesus had other plans, intervening in miraculous ways.

### **Four Unique Qualifications of Jesus, the Miracleworker:**

- 1. He Is Lord over \_\_\_\_\_ (Circumstances)**
  - a. *“Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.” Luke 7:11-12.*
  - b. Jesus is Lord of history, being with the Father at the beginning (Isaiah 46:9-10). His birth (Galatians 4:4), public ministry (John 2:4), death (Luke 9:51), and return (Matthew 24:44) occur at appointed times. Every person's days are numbered (Psalm 139:16). Nothing happens by chance.
  - c. When Jesus and his entourage left for Nain, the young man may not have yet died. Yet, he knew he would encounter a funeral procession. God is never surprised by the circumstances of our lives – the ordinary and the extraordinary.
  
- 2. He Is the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ (Compassion)**
  - a. *“When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don't cry.’” Luke 7:13.* Jesus comforted the widow, feeling deep empathy for her. What a blessing to know that Jesus enters into our grief. *“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.” Psalm 56:8, NLT.*
  
- 3. He Is the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ (Creation)**
  - a. *“Then he went and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.” Luke 7:14-15.*
  - b. The corpse was likely carried on an open stretcher. The funeral had already occurred and they were on their way to the burial. The body would have been wrapped in folds of linens with a single cloth laid over the face. Touching a dead body would defile a person, as well as being considered a sacrilege.

- c. At Jesus' command, life surged through the dead body, as it will when Christ returns at the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16). The cloth fell from the young man's face and Jesus brought him to his mother. *"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."* Revelation 1:18.

**4. He Is the Lord, the \_\_\_\_\_(Christ)**

- a. *"They were all filled with awe and praised God. 'A great prophet has appeared among us', they said. 'God has come to help his people'. This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country."* Luke 7:16-17. The crowd was awestruck as they realized they were in the presence of the first prophet to appear in Israel in over 400 years.
- b. Jesus is unquestionably the greatest person in human history, splitting time in half (BC and AD). The number of the year 2017 is reckoned from the birth of Christ ("in the year of our Lord"). Jesus is the God-man, a fact denied by Islam, Mormonism, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others.

**Only a year after the resurrection of the widow's son, Jesus' popularity began to wane. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" followed by "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16. This question has echoed down through history, of critical importance to you as well. Who do you believe Jesus is? Are you trusting him as your Savior and Lord?**

# Discussion Questions

## Jesus, the Miracleworker

1. Have you seen many miracles in your lifetime? Where were you when it was reported that Aaliyah Kazimer was found ALIVE? Did this surprise you? Why or why not? Have you witnessed any healings that qualify as a miracle in your mind? Have you followed the events surrounding the birth and health status of Henry Dolan? What have you learned from the miracle of Henry's life?
2. Read Luke 7:11-17. How does Jesus show that he is the Lord of circumstances in this passage? What do we learn from Isaiah 46:9-10, Galatians 4:4, John 2:4, Luke 9:51, Matthew 24:44, and Psalm 139:16 about God being Lord over time itself? Why was a crowd following Jesus in Luke 7:11? Why is it important to realize that the young man may not have yet died when Jesus and the crowd left Capernaum to go to Nain? What kind of crowd did Jesus encounter in Nain? Have you seen how Jesus is the Lord of the circumstances in your life? How is that?
3. Look at verse 13. How does Jesus show that he is the Lord of compassion? How does this verse make you feel as a follower of Jesus? Why is it important to know that our Lord identifies with our emotions on a deep level? What is taught in Psalm 56:8? How has the Lord brought comfort to the Dolan family as they've gone through their trials of the last couple years?
4. Look at verses 14-15. How does Jesus show that he is the Lord of creation? What event in history would you have liked to have personally witnessed? What event in the life of Christ? Why were Jesus' actions in touching the stretcher and body so unusual? How would the body have looked? How do you think you would have felt after Jesus resurrected this young man? How will the resurrection that occurs at the Rapture be like this scene in Luke 7? See I Thessalonians 4:16. How does Jesus describe himself in Revelation 1:18?
5. Look at verses 16-17. How does Jesus show that he is the Christ? Do you think the crowd was more scared or more excited? Why? Do you believe that Jesus is the greatest person in human history? Why? Why do some dispute this? What does AD mean? How does this demonstrate the greatness of Christ? What are some of the false views of Jesus held by people today?

6. Why do you think Jesus' popularity began to wane so soon after the miracle at Nain?  
What questions did Jesus ask his disciples at Caesarea Philippi (see Matthew 16:13-15)?  
What did Peter reply? What is your reply to these questions? What does it mean to place your trust in Jesus as your own personal Savior?