

For the  
real story  
read Luke  
7:11-17

135

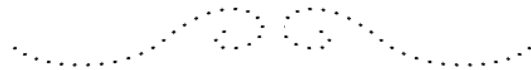
## What Happened?

**Characters:** NARRATOR;

**ABNER**, a pallbearer (someone who carries the coffin in a funeral procession); **TOBIAS**, a pallbearer;

**DARA**, a professional mourner (someone hired to cry at a funeral);

**GABE**, a friend of Josh's family



**Scene:** *Outside the Bible-times city of Nain.*

**NARRATOR:** Jesus has just interrupted a funeral procession and raised the dead man back to life. The man, Josh, and his mother, Josephine, have returned to the city along with most of the others. The only people left are two of the pallbearers and a professional mourner.

**ABNER:** What just happened here?

**TOBIAS:** I have no idea.

**DARA:** That man, Jesus, brought your friend Josh back to life.

**ABNER:** But that's not possible. What REAL-  
LY happened here?

**TOBIAS:** I don't know. Maybe Josh wasn't  
really dead after all.

**DARA:** His body was cold. He was dead. Take  
it from me. I'm a professional. I know.

**ABNER:** Listen. A dead man cannot sit up.  
He cannot talk. So what happened here?

**TOBIAS:** I'm clueless. Maybe that Jesus is a  
magician. Maybe He just made it look like  
Josh was alive. He could have tied invisible  
ropes on him or something.

**DARA:** Have you ever heard of invisible  
ropes? And getting him to sit up might not  
be so difficult. But talking and walking? I  
don't think so!

**ABNER:** OK. So Josh was dead. Now he's  
alive. And it was not a trick. But that's not  
possible! So, what happened here?

**TOBIAS:** I know. The dead guy wasn't Josh.  
It was someone else. And then this Jesus  
person had Josh switch places with the  
dead guy.

**DARA:** Josh's mother seemed to think it was  
Josh, and she prepared the body for burial.

**GABE:** *(Enters, running.)* Whoa! Sorry I'm  
late! I overslept, then I couldn't find my  
sackcloth, and then I couldn't get my don-  
key going, so I had to run all the way.  
*(Looks around.)* Where is everybody?

**ABNER:** Gone.

**GABE:** Gone? But I'm not THAT late! You  
should still be on the way to the graveyard.

**DARA:** They went home. Josh isn't dead.

**GABE:** That's ridiculous! I was there when he died. What really happened?

**ABNER:** That's what I've been trying to figure out.

**TOBIAS:** We've so far determined Josh was really dead and it wasn't a trick.

**GABE:** Huh?

**DARA:** Let me explain. A man by the name of Jesus came by with a group of His followers. When He saw Josephine, Josh's mom, He told her not to cry.

**ABNER:** *(Interrupting.)* Yeah. Which I thought was really weird. People are supposed to cry during funeral processions. That's why Josephine hired Dara here.

**GABE:** What has this got to do with what happened?

**DARA:** As I was saying, Jesus told Josephine not to cry. Then He turned to Josh and touched the coffin.

**GABE:** He touched the coffin of a dead man? Doesn't He know people aren't supposed to do that? Didn't He know that would make Him unclean?

**DARA:** Do you want me to tell you what happened or not?

**GABE:** Sorry. It's just that I don't understand why anyone would go through all those cleansing rituals for someone they didn't know.

**DARA:** As I was saying, Jesus touched Josh's coffin and then told Josh to sit up.

**GABE:** He spoke to a dead man? That's just silly.

**TOBIAS:** That's what I thought!

**DARA:** As I was saying, Jesus told Josh to sit up and Josh did.

**GABE:** I don't think I heard you correctly. Josh sat up?

**DARA:** Yes. And he walked and talked. Then Jesus took Josh by the hand and took him over to his mother.

**ABNER:** Yeah. Then there was a lot of hugging and kissing and praising God.

**GABE:** This man, Jesus, brought Josh back to life?

**TOBIAS:** We haven't been able to come up with any other explanation.

**GABE:** Jesus must be a great prophet indeed!

**DARA:** He could even be the Messiah.

**GABE:** Praise God! And Josephine won't have to worry about where her next meal will come from. This is wonderful news!

**DARA:** Yeah, I guess so. But if this Jesus keeps running around raising people from the dead, I'm going to be out of a job. *(GABE and DARA exit.)*

**ABNER:** *(To TOBIAS.)* OK. So what just happened here?