

TO TELL
THE STORY



LUKE ITALIANO

Waking Up

When Aaron opened his eyes, the first thing he saw was the sky, which was more than a little unusual. And he heard nothing. He sat up and saw that he was surrounded by a great crowd. He recognized some people. There was his neighbor, there was the town baker, here was—here was his mother – he had no clue what that expression on her face meant. And Aaron looked out wider and saw a great crowd of people that he had no idea who they were. And his little town of Nain, everyone knew everyone.

And there was someone holding his hand. It was a man – a man that Aaron didn't recognize.

And then Aaron realized everyone was watching him.

“Um... hi?”

And the crowd erupted into cheers and praise and ecstatic yelling and screaming!

Aaron was a little surprised at this.

The man who was holding his hand helped him get down out of – a coffin? What was he doing in a coffin?

And suddenly, *foomp* like a force out of nature his mother had tackled him, was bear hugging him, was bawling, and she was saying something, although he could *not* understand her words: “And you were de – and you were dead – and th – and then he came in – and he said, ‘Don't cry’ – and he said – and he took your hand – and he said, ‘Young man I say to you get up’ –” And she was... whatever it was she was saying was very important to her, but Aaron could *not* understand it.

He looked over at the man. “What happened?”

The man smiled. “You were dead, but now you are alive again.”

Dead?! Dea...Wha...What?

And then Aaron heard what the crowd was screaming: “A great prophet has appeared among us!” they cried. “God has come to help his people!”

God?

Aaron looked at the man. “Who are you?”

“I'm Jesus,” he said.

And Aaron couldn't understand. “Why would you bring *me* back? I'm just someone. I'm not anyone special. I haven't done anything!”

And Jesus threw his head back and laughed – but not in mockery. In pure joy! And he looked at Aaron, and he answered, “When I bring someone back, it’s never because of something they did. It is always because of what I have done for them.”

My brothers, my sisters:

Jesus says that he is the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in him will never die. And when he brings someone back from the dead, it is never about what they have done, but always about what he has done *for them*.

And this story is true.

Luke 7:11-17

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