

WEEK TWO - SURPRISE (Am I open to the surprise of God's Spirit in my life?)

Scripture - Luke 7:11-17

Jesus Raises the Widow's Son at Nain

11 Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. **12** As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. **13** When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." **14** Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" **15** The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. **16** Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" **17** This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you from Dr. Jones's reflections?
2. Do you find Jesus' compassion in this passage surprising? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think it's sometimes hard for us to handle moments of surprise from God?
4. Reflect on Dr. Jones's assessment from 2 Corinthians 1:20 that God's definitive stance towards us is "Yes." What do you think that means?
 - a. "For in him [Christ] every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.'" (2 Cor 1:20, NRSV)
5. As disciples of Christ, what can we do to be more open to surprise?
 - a. What do you think of Dr. Jones's suggestion to begin every meeting with, "Where have you seen the power of God's presence in your life?"
6. Where have you experienced surprise in your walk with Christ?
 - a. What surprising or audacious thing might God be calling you to do in your life?