

# CELL NOTES 7/6/10

## ICE BREAKER

How do you feel about doing the garden? A passion, a chore, you manage to avoid it, something else?

## THEME

Jesus raises a widow's son  
Reading Luke 7 : 11 - 17

## SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) This mind-blowing incident happens very soon after the healing of the centurion's daughter – Jesus frequently healed etc.
- 2) The widow would have been utterly distraught. She has already lost her husband, and now has lost her only son. She is weeping as she follows the coffin – probably unsure as to how she would look after herself in the future.
- 3) v13 – Jesus was moved to the depth of His being, and thus raised the son to life (This is one of 3 such gospel incidents) v16 – awe might be an understatement!
- 4) The women would have been utterly broken-hearted before this happened. We live in a world where broken hearts are common.
- 5) This incident has a happy ending. Frequently that is not so in life – we live with disappointment, failure, grief etc – which can make us feel abandoned by God. Our prayers appear not to have been heard.
- 6) Luke underlines Jesus' compassion for the widow. Do you feel that sometimes God is partial in His compassion, when He appears to ignore your heart-wrenching circumstances, and your desperate cries for help?
- 7) Life, and faith, seldom have nice neat answers. Some things might help us in the face these things :-
  - Jesus really did rise again. Whatever we may be currently experiencing, He really is alive.
  - Remember the Chinese Christians whose request is for compassion and boldness, rather than relief from oppression.
  - Remember God's chief work is on our characters – and one of His main tools is difficult circumstances.
  - Look to Christ whatever the circumstances (Hab 3 : 17 – 18).
  - Pray for, and serve one another in the face of difficulty.

## **QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

- 1) Read the passage. What hits you? What did God say to you on Sunday? How has that affected you in inner attitude or specific action?
- 2) Are you struggling with, or are you close to someone who is struggling with, the sort of life-issue raised in the message?
- 3) How have you reacted to apparently unanswered prayer?
- 4) How would you respond to the person who said that they feel God was not interested in them, because He had failed to help in a difficult situation, when they had prayed?