



Sermon Study Guide
5/13/18

Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.

Series Theme

Give It Back

Sermon Title

Give It Back (Luke Casagrande)

Key Sermon Points

- There are things that rightfully belong to us that the enemy (evil one) tries to take from us. Jesus is in the business of giving them back.
- Jesus intended to have a divine appointment at the city gate of Nain. When Jesus enters in death makes its exit.
- Dead things must be evicted from our hearts as the abundant, life giving presence of Christ comes in.
- Jesus acknowledges the grieving widow first. He knows and feels her suffering and has compassion on her. Our creator knows each of us and cares infinitely for us.
- Often, we don't expect or ask miracles of Jesus because we do not have a category for them. Our faith is not always large enough for the things God intends to do.
- Jesus says 'I am doing a work, the likes of which you have never seen.' The "dead" can live again. You can live again.
- Jesus does not follow the cultural norms of the day and join the funeral procession to a grave outside of the city. He changes the lives and direction of people in the procession of death to follow His march of life back into the city, but as different (changed) people.
- We are called to go back into our family, job, social situations, etc. as changed people, members of a procession of eternal, abundant life.

Scripture: Luke 7:11-15

Personal Application

1. Think about the dead things that might still have a place in your heart. How might Jesus be about the task of evicting them? Are there steps you might make to follow His lead?
2. In what ways might you be able to take your abundant life in Christ back to your workplace, family, relationships or other places in your daily living.
3. Memorize Habakkuk 1:5 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it several times each day... *"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told."*

Discussion Questions: (conversations)

1. What are some of the dead things in the world around us? How do people join in marching along with them? Do you ever tend to join in?
2. What are some of the miracles (things that Jesus might do) that you do not have a category for?
3. Are there areas in which you might yet leave the procession of death and join the procession of life? How might you go back to your family, work, social situations, etc. taking a greater measure of eternal, abundant life?
4. Share some of your joys and miracles as you moved along and continue in Jesus' procession of eternal, abundant life.

Life Groups

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you consider Jesus giving us back the life taken by the evil one. Is there a way in which your group could further join the procession of eternal, abundant life?

Children & Families

Have your children draw some things that give more abundant life. Talk about ways these things might have a greater place in your home. Post their drawings as a reminder and goal for the next few weeks or months.

Other Resources

[Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life:](#) by Eric Metaxas

Not since C. S. Lewis in 1947 has an author of Eric Metaxas's stature undertaken a major exploration of the phenomenon of miracles. In this groundbreaking work, Metaxas examines the compatibility between faith and science and provides well-documented anecdotal evidence of actual miracles. With compelling—sometimes electrifying—evidence that there is something real to be reckoned with, Metaxas offers a timely, civil, and thoughtful answer to recent books by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris. Already a *New York Times* bestseller, *Miracles* will be welcomed by both believers and skeptics—who will find their minds opening to the possibilities.

[The Seven Laws of Abundant Living: Lessons Learned from The Tree of Life:](#) by Eric Walker

The Torah, the Bible, the Tree of Life—God's Word is a set of instructions for everyone who wants to live a victorious, joyful, and abundant life.

The Seven Laws of Abundant Living explains a parable relating to the Tree of Life that the Lord spoke to Eric Walker—a Messianic Rabbi. The parable opens wide the unique components of the Word and the physical Tree of Life that is introduced in Genesis and again in Revelation.

The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden was the tree of life... (Genesis 2:9). The parable reveals seven aspects of the Tree of Life: The ground, the seed, the roots, the trunk, the branches, the leaves, and the fruit.

Each of these components brings seven life-changing conclusions to light that stimulate spiritual growth and maturity. The simple yet profound image is powerful and compels you into self-examination to assure your spiritual health and growth in each of the areas God wanted Eric Walker to share with you.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7).