

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

APRIL 2, 2006

HOW MUCH DEAD IS DEAD?

By Bruce J. Dehut

The gospels record three separate occasions when Jesus restored life to individuals who had been pronounced dead.

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

(Luke 8:41-42 & 49-56)

This ruler of the synagogue had first approach Jesus concerning his daughter's condition while she was still drawing breath *(Luke 8:41-42)*. Our Lord responded immediately and made His way to the little girl's bedside only to be met with the news He was too late. This report did not dissuade Jesus from entering the house and taking the young lady's hand and saying to her *"Little girl, arise."* There was no delay, *"Then her spirit returned, and she arose*

immediately" *(Luke 8:49-56)*. Since Jesus had arrived shortly after her death the body of this precious one was probably still warm when He called her spirit back.

THE WIDOW'S SON

(Luke 7:11-15)

As Jesus and His disciples approached the gates of the city of Nain they met up with a large funeral procession. The sorrow was probably compounded by the fact that this widow would have been dependent upon her only son and now he was gone too and she would find herself destitute. Now it had most assuredly taken some time to arrange the burial and it usually takes 8-12 hours before rigor mortis sets in and lasts approximately three days, so this young man was or had been through this stage of death. Seizing the moment, Jesus used this event to demonstrate not only the healing power of God but also His compassion for the sufferings of others as He told the widow *"do not weep."* Christ then proceeds to touch the halted open coffin and instruct the widow's son *"Young man, I say to you, arise."* So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

LAZARUS

(John 11:1-7, 11-17 & 39-44)

It appears from scripture that Jesus had a deep kinship with three siblings *"Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus"* *(John 11:5)*. If we had been in Jesus' sandals when the sisters sent the news that their brother was sick we would have made every attempt to visit Lazarus quickly but the Lord chose to wait; "when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was" *(John 11:6)*. Jesus never used miracles just for the mere show of it, there was always a purpose and always at the appropriate time, so it was even

with His dear friend's death. *"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it"* *(John 11:4)*. So by the time Jesus reaches the site of the tomb and directs them to "Take away the stone" four days have passed since the death and rightfully so, people are fearful of the disgusting odor that will waft out. The body had lain long enough in the grave that under normal circumstances decay would have surely commenced. But Jesus assures those around Him that they see the glory of God and for their sakes "He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go" *(John 11:43-44)*.

DEAD IS DEAD?

The deceased people mentioned above were not in the condition like the hero from the fanciful movie "The Princess Bride" when after being tortured was found to be "mostly dead." The spirits of the three under consideration had left their bodies and we honestly can say they were "all dead." Most of us don't have much difficulty comprehending the concept about physical death. A murderer doesn't stand before a jury of his peers and confess he only "kind of" killed someone and get off scott free. So let's apply this easily understood principle to an area where we struggle to the black from the white.

SIN IS SIN

I grew up in attending a religious

group that classified sins as either venial or mortal. The venial sins were things like white lies, taking dime store candy, or abiding in alcohol just a smidge. The heinous offenses like murder, adultery and witchcraft were obviously lumped into the mortal sin category. But is this denominational concept of sin biblical? The answer is no! The apostle Paul cataloged the sin of envy right up there with the act of fornication and the outcome for a person living either way was identical.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

So the next time we contemplate a "small" sin, remember with God, sin is sin.

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 5:17a All unrighteousness is sin.

Most importantly we only are given one chance at this thing called life (Hebrews 9:27) so let's humble ourselves before the Creator of the universe and repent of sin however insignificant we may think it is, the stakes are far too great.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Silent Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The preacher made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the preacher was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

- Author Unknown

Men's Weekend Bible Study



Join with other men of faith as we encourage and strengthen each other from the word of God. The speakers possess a wide variety of experience and the lessons are designed for men of all ages and each will have ample time for discussion.

Session #1 - Warrior

Lesson A - Which way is the war?
Lesson B - Suiting Up
Lesson C - Healing Battle Wounds

Session #2 - King

Lesson A - The servant/shepherd
Lesson B - Discovering God's vision
Lesson C - Your kingdom's legacy

Session #3 - Mentor

Lesson A - How to find a mentor
Lesson B - Methods of mentoring
Lesson C - Where do the mentors go?

Oct. 13-14, 2006

Reserve your spot as soon as possible!

Location:

North Central 4-H
Camping Center
Carlisle, KY

Web-Site

www.menswbs.com

Contact Info:

Jeremy Dehut
(513) 535-1591
jeremy.dehut@gmail.com

Sean Montgomery
(513) 772-6977
smontgomery1@cinci.rr.com

Bruce Dehut
(502) 552-6671
brucedehut@gmail.com

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brian Shepherd

Opening Prayer: Chuck Sharp

Lord's Table: Kenny Case
Steve Smith
Andy Milliner
Randall Alford

Scripture Reading: David Shepherd

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Larry Runner

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brian Shepherd

Opening Prayer: Jim Phelps

Song Service

Lord's Table: Kenny Case

Closing Prayer: Randall Hood