

lr-nt-19  
Thy Faith Hath Saved Thee  
(Luke 18; 19; John 11)  
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(This lesson gives unity to the scriptural material, and shows how our prayers and faith in Jesus Christ can save us today).

I. These scriptures work together to show how our prayers and faith in Jesus the Christ can save us.

- A. (Luke 18:1-8). The Parable of the widow and the Judge teach we must not become discouraged even when our prayers at first seem not to be heard. With the Lord, however, it is likely He delays answering as a test of our faith.
- B. (Luke 18:9-14). The Parable of the Pharisee and publican teaches prayer must be given in utmost humility, recognizing unworthiness, not in self-righteous pride.
- C. (Luke 18:15-17). Indeed, we must become as a little children in our faith.
- D. (Luke 18:35-43). We must have faith in Jesus' power as the Son of God to save us. **The blind man was healed because He had faith that Jesus was the Messiah.**
- E. (Luke 19:1-10). Through Zacchaeus we learn regardless of our past, if we have faith and seek Him in repentance, He will hearken to us and save us.

II. "Lazarus, Come Forth!" (John 11) Through the raising of Lazarus Jesus bore witness **He would save us all from physical death.**

- A. This was not just a miracle of compassion for Lazarus.
- B. Jesus deliberately let Lazarus remain in the tomb until it was undeniable that Lazarus' spirit had departed and his body was decaying.
- C. Thus Jesus deliberately used the raising of Lazarus (from death to mortal life) to conclusively show He had the power and **indeed would save us all from physical death (to immortal life).**
  - 1. "...that they may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 11:42).
- D. **Each one of us can have utmost faith that at some time after our death and our entombment Our Savior will call our name and say, "(\_\_\_\_\_), Come forth!"**

III. Jesus was also demonstrating He Himself would soon come forth in the resurrection.

- A. He knew the time for His own death drew near, and He would soon be crucified and be buried in a tomb as well.
- B. As He brought Lazarus forth He bore witness that He too would arise first, then eventually call forth all men from physical death.

IV. ***It is vital to know that Jesus calls men forth from Spiritual Death as well!***

- A. Raising men from physical death is only part of Jesus' great mission.
- B. He was also sent to save men from spiritual death.
- C. There are a growing number of persons today, even in the restored church, who have become entrapped in walking, spiritual deaths.
- D. **Jesus also calls to all of those trapped in spiritual deaths, "Come Forth!"**

1. For a wonderful example of how the Lord, today, calls forth those entombed in spiritual death, see Elder Scott Grow's talk at April General Conference, 2011. He told of a dear family member who was living a life of spiritual death. But he finally heeded the call of the Lord to "Come forth!" And though it was not easy, through faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ, he was able to be restored to spiritual life and its blessings. Here are excerpts from Elder Grow's talk:

"As a youth my brother was handsome, friendly, and outgoing— totally dedicated to the gospel. After serving an honorable mission, he married his sweetheart in the temple. They were blessed with a son and a daughter. His future was full of promise.

But then he gave in to a weakness. He chose to live a hedonistic lifestyle, which cost him his health, his marriage, and his membership in the Church.

He moved far from home. He continued his self-destructive behavior for more than a decade, **but the Savior had not forgotten or abandoned him. Eventually the pain of his despair allowed a spirit of humility to enter his soul.** His feelings of anger, rebellion, and militancy began to dissipate. Like the prodigal son, "he came to himself."<sup>1</sup> He began to reach out to the Savior and to make his way back home and to faithful parents who never gave up on him. [Emphasis added].

He walked the path of repentance. It wasn't easy. After being out of the Church for 12 years, he was rebaptized and received again the gift of the Holy Ghost. His priesthood and temple blessings were eventually restored.

He was blessed to find a woman who was willing to overlook the ongoing health challenges from his prior lifestyle, and they were sealed in the temple. Together they had two children. He served faithfully in the bishopric for several years.

My brother died on Monday morning, March 7. The previous Friday evening he and his wife attended the temple. On Sunday morning, the day before he died, he taught the priesthood lesson in his high priests group. He went to bed that evening, never to awaken again in this life — **but to come forth in the resurrection of the just.**

**I am grateful for the miracle of the Atonement in the life of my brother."** \*\*\*\*\*

As we are made clean through the power of His Atonement, the Savior becomes our advocate with the Father, pleading:

"Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified;

“Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.”

(This full talk is available through the May Ensign, 2011 and [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) . )

E. Truly, Jesus does call those living in spiritual death to “Come Forth,” if they will heed. And while it may not occur as quickly and dramatically as with Lazarus, through Him they too may partake in physical and spiritual resurrection.

V. To have full faith in Jesus Christ, we need to have full faith in His scriptures.

A. For a long time, some scientists and scholars have caused many to doubt the scriptural record, particularly the Bible, saying science has proved life originated merely by chance, and **that man has evolved from lower life forms**, [again, by accident].

B. **New, breakthrough science**, however, is proving that the record given in the Bible is actually true, and that the old scientific claims regarding evolution are in fact, false.

1. Some **prominent geneticists** are abandoning their previous beliefs in evolution, finding from their intense studies **that DNA does not produce new, higher forms through mutations, but only negative results. Decades of scientific attempts to do so have failed.**

a. It is true that there is an “adaptive evolution” **which the creator put into His creatures**, to allow them to adapt to their respective environments. But it is not true they can mutate from species to species.

2. Furthermore, the geologic evidence shows that after a period of simple celled creatures, living in colonies, there was not a gradual evolution into new, higher forms, but **rather an amazingly “sudden explosion” of new, highly complex creatures.**

3. A significant, growing body of scientists are openly saying there needs to be change of thinking on evolution from species to species, even though they often jeopardize their jobs and their reputations in daring to do so. For when correctly analyzed, **new scientific studies do not support it! The claimed evidences are shown to be highly misleading.**

4. New scientific studies also show that carbon dating is misleading, as many, many examples of rock (i.e., newly formed igneous rock) have been mistakenly identified as “millions of years old” **when they were in fact clearly recently formed.**

a. Dating rock was based upon theories of men that all things have always remained absolutely stable. But repeatedly, **dating of known rocks is showing inaccuracies.**

b. Thus, the “billions of years” needed for slow evolution is proven to be false.

5. There are also many evidences that the old fossil record has been misread. Rather than assumptions that the sediments were laid down over billions of years, **there is much scientific evidence they were laid down during the waving action of a Great Flood (that is with great waves of water coming up out of the earth through tectonic changes, and carrying fossils of marine life up upon on the earth, even upon mountain tops --- whose peaks were not as high as they are today).**

6. New scientific evidences support the truth of the Biblical record. All those seeking to have faith in Jesus Christ and the scriptural records which testify of Him *should rejoice that there is more and more corroborative evidence that supports the exactness of its scriptural record, the Bible.* And they should open their minds and diligently seek out these new found truths.

7. Then they should diligently teach them to those, young and old, who have fallen into paths of disbelief, not only in Christ, but in His Father, God Himself, and in His Word.