

Luke 8:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

Analysis

And her spirit came again (καὶ ἐπέστρεψεν τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς)—Luke's medical vocabulary is precise: the verb epistrephō (returned, came back) confirms that her pneuma (spirit) had departed, validating her actual death. This verse refutes natural explanations (coma, catalepsy) and affirms bodily resurrection—spirit reunited with body. Luke's anthropology distinguishes spirit from body, anticipating Christian teaching about intermediate state and bodily resurrection.

And she arose straightway (καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρῆμα) —the adverb parachrēma emphasizes the instantaneous nature of the miracle. No gradual recovery, no convalescence—immediate restoration of life and vitality. **And he commanded to give her meat** (καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν) —Jesus's practical concern that she be fed demonstrates the physicality of resurrection (not a ghost or vision) and his pastoral care for human needs. This detail anticipates the post-resurrection Jesus eating fish with his disciples to prove his bodily resurrection (Luke 24:41-43).

Historical Context

In Jewish anthropology, the spirit departing confirmed death, and its return meant resurrection—not resuscitation. Luke's emphasis on the spirit's return and the girl's immediate eating served apologetic purposes for his Gentile audience, many of whom were influenced by Greek dualism that denied bodily resurrection. This

miracle validates Jewish-Christian resurrection hope against Hellenistic skepticism.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the detail about 'her spirit came again' affirm both the reality of death and the truth of bodily resurrection?
2. What does Jesus's command to feed the girl teach about the integration of spiritual and physical needs in Christian ministry?
3. In what ways does this resurrection miracle point forward to Jesus's own resurrection and the believer's future resurrection?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπέστρεψεν τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῇ καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρῆμα
And came again spirit her And she arose straightway
G2532 G1994 G3588 G4151 G846 G2532 G450 G3916

καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν
And he commanded her to give meat
G2532 G1299 G846 G1325 G5315

Additional Cross-References

John 11:44 (Parallel theme): And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.