

•**Marvel- To Wonder/Be Amazed-** has God ever done something for you that made you Marvel, Left you in wonder and amazement?

•**Tale of Two crowds.** One entering the city and one leaving. They couldn't be more diverse. The group arriving buzzes with laughter and conversation. They follow Jesus. The group leaving the city is solemn—a herd of sadness hypnotized by the sight of death. Above them rides the reason for their grief—a cold body in a wooden box.

•**Bible Reading**

•The woman at the back of the procession is the mother. She has walked this trail before. It seems like just yesterday she buried the body of her husband. Her son walked with her then. Now she walks alone, quarantined in her sadness.

•Few words there are in this description, but, O, how much they meant! The mother's house was now empty; she had lived for this son; her dependence was now gone; she had hoped all from this son; the work of years was apparently useless. ***To what purpose had she brought up this boy? The expense, the trouble, the tears , the prayers, over his future; were they then given for nothing? Life had no more attraction for her. -The past said: "A dead husband," the present said: "A dead son," the future said: "An empty struggle for a useless life."***

She is the victim of an enemy called death.

•**We've got SO much in the box. Mind. Hope. Joy. Health. Relationships.**

•***What have you put in the BOX? WHO?***

•**Only God can turn your box into a blessing.**

•She didn't know a second chance was an option. The Second Chance found her!

- There is another crowd. A second procession.
- At the city gate the two processions couldn't be more different. Death and sorrow were going out; life and hope were coming in.**
- **The wages of sin was going out and the sacrifice for sin was coming in.**
- **Pain is moving you to purpose. Purpose is moving Him to pain.**
- Jesus crashed a funeral at the CityGate

☑ Don't cry! Don't cry? What kind of request is that? A request only God can make when He knows what He's about to do.

- Praise Me! Worship me!- He doesn't change based on our conditions. Our worship shouldn't change based on our conditions.**
- Risking ceremonial defilement according to the law.*
- You walked in with your box full but you're leaving with it empty.***

☑ Don't Close the Lid!

- The devil has been trying to get you to close the LID on something God wants to resurrect!

•The enemy's tryin' to make you think that your life is over, and God is about to get you out of it. The enemy is trying to make you think that God doesn't have another sermon, another song, another job, another message, another life, another love, another hope, another house, and the enemy's trying to make you go to sleep, but God... I feel the anointing of the Holy Ghost in this place. I said but God, God is trying to wake you up.

•Somebody shout, "Wake up". Wake up, wake up, wake up, wake up, wake up. Somebody type wake up, wake up, wake up. Somebody say, "Wake up". Wake up, wake up. Somebody shake yourself and say, "Wake up, wake up, wake up". This is not your life. This is not your situation. This is not your go-to. This is not your default setting. This is not how your story ends. This is not how you give up. This is not how you die. I shall not die, not today, not here, not like this, no, no, no, no, no.

Jesus LIFTED Him! RISE

•And listen to St. Luke: "*The dead man sat up.*" What's wrong with that sentence? Read it again: "*The dead man sat up.*" Simple. **Dead men don't sit up. Not unless the voice of God speaks.**

•Somebody was about to commit suicide, but he lifted you. Somebody was strung out on drugs, but he lifted you. Somebody was an alcoholic, but he lifted you. Somebody was a wife beater, but he lifted you. You ought to thank God for lifting you. He lifted me. When nothing else could help, he lifted me. To God be the glory, he lifted me. I wish I had 100 people that would thank God just for lifting you.

Jesus RESTORED Him.

•*Once he got lifted he started talking. Talk Your Way Out Of It!*

•**Talking was a sign that I'm coming out of this box!**

•***What you carried in it's walking out with you?***