

WHY DIDN'T JESUS RAISE JOSEPH?

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This question is based on the assumption that Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, died before Jesus began His ministry. Since he is conspicuously absent at the cross when Jesus has John take His mother, Mary, into his own home, it is obvious that Joseph is not in the picture anymore. The most likely reason is that he is deceased.

If this indeed be the case, the loss of His earthly father and mentor would have brought great sadness to Jesus, as well to His mother and siblings. Jesus would understand the pain which so many others have experienced of losing a parent.

This raises the title question: Why didn't Jesus raise His earthly father and bring about a joyous family reunion? He had the power – He raised his beloved friend Lazarus. Why not His own father?

The truth is that miracles were never used to selfishly benefit the one working the miracles. Jesus raised Lazarus not because He missed him as a friend but for the glory of God (Jn. 11:4, 40-42).

Miracles were given as evidence of the power and will of God. They attested to the truth about Jesus (Acts 2:22) and were signs of true apostleship (2 Cor. 12:12). They confirmed the truth of the gospel preached (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4). The miracles recorded in the Bible continue to give reason to believe in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31). Jesus always did the will of the Father in working miracles and never His own will (Jn. 6:38).