

A Sermon on Being A Hero

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for February 11th, 2024 (and beyond)

Today's sermon is a modernization of John 11:38-44 in which Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. It is my belief that Lazarus was merely unconscious and wrongfully declared dead. Someone can live without water for up to 18 days, but generally no more than 3 days. The 18 days is sketchy and the source is <https://www.sciencealert.com/here-s-the-longest-people-have-survived-without-air-food-water-sunshine-or-sleep> As shared in previous sermons, many people historically were wrongfully declared dead and that still happens today sometimes. In June of 2023 "It was a shocking story that made headlines across the globe: A woman in Ecuador named Bella Montoya was declared dead but later surprised family members gathered for her wake when she showed signs of life from her coffin." Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/14/1181981275/how-wrongly-declared-dead-alive-funeral-ecuador> That is just one example. Here's another from October of 2023 "A Missouri woman is still fighting to prove she's alive after she was wrongfully declared dead more than 15 years ago." Source: <https://people.com/woman-wrongly-declared-dead-for-over-15-years-fighting-prove-existence-8348294> "This fear of premature burial arose during the first half of the 19th century with hundreds of reports of medical personnel, with lack of training, pronouncing people dead when they were comatose or unconscious...Early newspaper publications reported cases of exhumed corpses that appear to have been accidentally buried alive. On Feb. 21, 1885, the New York Times gave a disturbing account of such a case. The victim was a man from Buncombe County, North Carolina, whose name was given as "Jenkins." His body was found turned over onto its front inside the coffin, with much of his hair pulled out. Scratch marks were also visible on all sides of the coffin's interior. Another related story was reported in the Times Jan. 18, 1886, the victim of this case being described simply as a "girl named Collins" from Woodstock, Ontario. Her body lying in a coffin was described as being found with her knees tucked up under the body, and her burial shroud "torn into shreds." Source: <https://www.nmfh.org/buried-alive-boetticher/>

But, I imagine Jesus leading by example in getting certified in First Aid, CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) use so that he knows and is prepared to assess a crisis situation that may call for a response someone with said certification is prepared to provide which may include calling 911 and providing immediate help that may save a life that would be lost depending on how long emergency services take to arrive at the scene. Brain death starts after 3 minutes of cardiac arrest and no chance of any recovery if not revived within 10 minutes. "The average response time was eight minutes and 28 seconds in 2019" in New York City in terms of emergency first responders. Source: <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/public-safety/2022/09/19/emergency-response-times-by-fdny--nypd-increase> So, if you are first on the scene and are prepared to help a friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker, or anyone in your presence, it may save their life and if not then emergency services may not arrive in time if calling for help is the only help you are prepared to give.

Are you ready to be a hero or do you need more preparation? You can sign up and find a class near you here: <https://atlas.heart.org/home>

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.