

## **She's Just Asleep**

Matthew 9:18-38

by Don Falkos

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The leader of a synagogue knelt in front of Jesus. "My daughter has just died, but you can bring her back to life again. Please, come and lay your hand on her."

Jesus went with him. While they were on their way, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak. Jesus turned and said, "Daughter, your faith has saved you." At that moment the bleeding stopped.

They continued on their way. When they arrived at the house, everyone was weeping loudly. Jesus said, "Go away! The girl isn't dead. She's just asleep." But they laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand; she stood up. News of what Jesus had done spread far and wide.

When Jesus left there, two blind men followed him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Jesus asked, "Do you believe I can make you see?"

"Yes, Lord."

He touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith..."; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "Don't tell anyone about this." But they couldn't help themselves. They told everyone.

A man who was possessed by an evil spirit and couldn't speak was brought to Jesus. Jesus cast out the evil spirit, and then the man could speak. The crowd was amazed. "We've never seen anything like this."

But the Pharisees said, "This man expels evil spirits by the power of the prince of evil spirits."

Jesus went from town to town sharing the good news of the Kingdom and healing the sick. He had compassion on the people he encountered. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.