

Twelve Years

Luke 8:40-56

by Don Falkos

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Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, knelt in front of Jesus. "Teacher, please come to my home and heal my daughter. She's only twelve years old. Please, don't let her die."

Jesus went with him. While they were on their way, a large crowd gathered around them. Pushing through the crowd, a woman came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak.

Jesus turned and said, "Who touched me? I felt power go out from me."

The woman stepped forward trembling and knelt at Jesus' feet. "I touched you. I've been bleeding for twelve years. I spent all I had on doctors – none of them helped me. But I knew, if only I could touch you... and when I did, the bleeding stopped."

Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Some people came to tell Jairus, "Don't bother the teacher any more. Your little girl is dead."

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Just believe. Your daughter will be healed."

When they arrived at the house, everyone there was weeping loudly. Jesus said, "Stop this noise. The child isn't dead. She's just asleep." But they laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

Jesus went into the house with the girl's parents and three of his apostles. He took the little girl by the hand and said, "My dear child, wake up." She immediately stood up. Her parents were ecstatic, but Jesus said, "See that your daughter gets something to eat, and don't tell anyone what just happened here."