

The Gospel of Matthew

"Messianic Credentials" The Authority of Jesus (pt. 3) Matthew 9:18-34

Authority of Jesus

Matthew 9:18-34:

➤ *Overview*

- these three miracles further demonstrate Jesus' messianic credentials
- these are signs of the dawning of the kingdom and foretastes of its consummation

Authority of Jesus

1. Jesus' Authority Over Death

➤ *a rare, culminating miracle*

- "asleep" – with Jesus the physical death of the girl was not permanent
- in Christ, physical death of believers is transformed to "sleep"

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1 Corinthians 15:20

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are *asleep*."

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are *asleep*, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have *fallen asleep* in Jesus...the dead in Christ will rise first."

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2. The Necessity of Desperate Faith

➤ *examples*

- the superstitious faith of the woman suffering from a hemorrhage for 12 years
- the insightful, messianic faith of two blind men
- the lack of perception and desperation by the religious leaders

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2. The Necessity of Desperate Faith

➤ *the nature of this faith*

- this faith is an expression of a self-acknowledged need
- this faith is directed toward the person and power of Jesus