

Message #31**Matthew 9:1-8**

To this point, Jesus Christ has established He is God by curing people of disease and demons; now He will cure a person of sin. This miracle is one of the most important miracles in the book of Matthew because this miracle proves a very important point:

WHEN JESUS CHRIST WAS PHYSICALLY HERE ON EARTH, HE DEMONSTRATED TO ISRAEL THAT HE WAS THE GOD/KING WHO COULD FORGIVE SIN.

This is a remarkable text of Scripture because this occurs prior to Christ's going to Calvary.

FACT #1 – Jesus returns to Capernaum. **9:1**

Capernaum became Christ's home-based city and it was a city in which He did some of His greatest miracles. It was this very fact that would send the majority of people in this city to hell—Matt. 11:23-24. He was drawing huge crowds in this area (Matt. 8:18). Just because a person knows things about God or Jesus Christ, does not mean that one has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Just because one says we've seen God do great things does not mean they are headed to heaven. Capernaum literally saw God do great things before their eyes and most will be in fiery hell.

FACT #2 – Some people bring to Jesus a paralyzed man. **9:2a**

The word “paralytic,” which occurs twice in this verse, comes from a Greek verb (para-luo) which literally means to be enfeebled by a paralytic stroke (Smith, p. 341). If we track the word through the N.T., we learn that this paralysis meant one could not obviously walk (Acts 8:7) and one was bedridden (Acts 9:33). Mark tells us that four men brought this paralyzed man to Jesus but could not get in because of the crowds, so they went on top of the house, removed a slate stone and dug through the clay and lowered the man down to where Jesus was on a pallet (Mark 2:3-4).

Now before we move on, I want us to carefully notice that they took the man to Jesus. They went to the place where the power of God was. There are some people who are missing the power of God in their lives because they stay home and do not go to the place where the power of God is, namely, the church.

FACT #3 – Jesus responds to the faith of these men. **9:2b**

Their faith meant they did not allow any obstacle to keep them from going to where Jesus was. When Jesus saw the faith of these men, he said three things to the paralyzed man:

(Statement #1) - “Take courage.”

The particular Greek word used for courage is one that literally means to be of good courage and cheer up (Smith, pp. 202-203). Sick people are often discouraged, but that was all about to change.

(Statement #2) - You are “my son.”

Now carefully contextually notice what is necessary for God to classify a person as His child—sins must be forgiven.

(Statement #3) - “You’re sins are forgiven.”

In the O.T. there were many times when the forgiveness of sins was connected to the healing of sicknesses – Psalm 103:3; Isaiah 33:24. The word “forgive” literally means your sins are gone (Smith, p. 71). It wasn’t that the man did not sin; it is that Jesus pronounced the sins gone. He will make this same pronouncement to any who will believe on Him.

FACT #4 – The scribes accuse Jesus of blasphemy. **9:3**

This is the first major point of opposition with the religious leaders. This is the first time they try to discredit Him. These scribes knew full well that only God can forgive sin—Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21. These scribes knew at this point He was claiming to be God!

FACT #5 – Jesus responds to the scribes. **9:4-6**

Now I want you to carefully observe the following from verse 4 – Jesus knows their thoughts and He knows what is in their hearts. The participle “knowing” is perfect tense, meaning Jesus knew all their thoughts in the past and continued to know them in the present and on into the future. The verb “thinking” is present tense, meaning Jesus continually and always knows what is going on in one’s heart. This one verse proves He is God.

In **verse 5** Jesus poses a question to them—is it easier to say your sins are forgiven or rise up and walk? Well, the easiest thing to say is “Your sins are forgiven,” because that cannot be disproved by any onlooker. On the other hand, if you say, “Your sins are forgiven” and have the man to get up and walk would be remarkable. Now carefully notice **verse 6**—Jesus makes it clear that He is doing this to prove He is God.

FACT #6 – The paralyzed man immediately gets up and goes home. **9:7**

When this man stands up, he visibly proves Jesus Christ is God, who not only can make lame people walk, but can forgive all sin.

FACT #7 – The multitudes react. **9:8**

Notice they react with lip service, not heart service. Israel stood in awe; it glorified God but it would not acknowledge that Jesus is God. They said He is a man. They rejected their Savior.