

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Friday Night

Gospel Mission (1)

Date 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles. Hymns 203, 208 104, 227. Read: Matthew 9:1-8

Text: Matthew 9:1-8 Title The Forgiveness of sins.

The passage before us records that the Lord Jesus Christ, in **verse 1** “**came into His own city**”, another gospel writer named Mark in his account of this scene, in **Mark 2:1** names the city as Capernaum, in Galilee, Israel.

As Christ enters into a house within the city, **Mark 2:1-2** says “**it was noised that He was in the house, And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door.**”

May I say, we long for such a day in London, as the Book and Blood of Christ is preached, it will be “**noised (or heard) that He was in the house.**”

**Causing a people to gather to fill the house full wanting to hear Christ preached according to the scriptures.**

May the Lord be pleased to come by this house tonight, in this gospel mission and so meet with us, and cause others to gather, that there would be people desiring to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ preached.

During the meeting at the house, certain men, brought their friend, but due to the crowd they climbed onto the roof of the house, made a whole and lowered their friend down, to meet the Saviour.

In the house, Christ "**preached the word unto them**". It is the message of the word of God that men and woman need to hear.

The preaching of the word, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

The gospel message sets men and woman free from sins burden and guilt, it reveals God forgives sin only through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in the verses before us, the focus is on the great truth of **the forgiveness of sins**.

We see this mentioned three times from **verses, 2-6**, by the words "**thy sins be forgiven thee**."

The forgiveness of sins is the central truth of the entire Gospel.

The saving grace of God the Father is extended toward those whose great need is the forgiveness of their sins.

God the Son came into the world to save sinners by forgiving their sins.

God the Spirit leads sinners to Christ for the great purpose of receiving forgiveness of all sins.

But what does it mean to have sins forgiven or what does the word forgive, or forgiveness actually mean?

Literally, the words **to forgive** mean **to send away**, so in this sense when sins are forgiven, they are **sent away or they are removed**.

They are sent away, completely gone, from the judgement of God by the sacrificial death of Christ.

In fact, Isaiah delivering the Lord's message preached in **Isaiah 43:25** "***I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.***"

The forgiveness of sins means that God no longer sees or remembers that sin.

It's not that God forgets sin, ignores sin, puts it aside, rather when a sinner confesses their sin, upon the death of Christ alone, **God choses to remember those sins no more. He choses to remove them all.**

The one who was guilty is no longer guilty, fully forgiven of all sins. The condemnation is lifted and the penalty for their sin is removed, **because Jesus paid it all.**

The truth of the forgiveness of sins, and it is this great theme that runs right through the passage before us.

## **I FIRST, THE PRIORITY OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

**verse 2** "***And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy...***"

The men brought their friend to Christ for the **purpose that he would receive forgiveness of sins.**

**Matthew** identifies this man as ***a man sick of the palsy***. The word translated **palsy** means ***to be paralysed***.

The men come to the house urgently, with a burden on their hearts concerning their friend and his spiritual state. They needed to bring him to Christ.

Now it is clear the man had a physical condition and they knew Christ had power to heal his body, **but their focus was more towards having his sins forgiven.**

Notice the words **verse 2**, when they came, “**Jesus seeing their faith.**” These men had faith in Christ, because faith is a spiritual quality, it is a gift of God to sinful man at salvation.

What Christ did in their lives, forgiving their sin, they believed Christ could do the same in their friend’s life.

Unsaved one today, you have been invited to this gospel mission because we care for your soul, we are burdened for your forgiveness.

What the Lord has done in our lives, we know He has all power to do in your life, transforming your life, lifting the burden and load of sin away, giving you the joy and peace of sins forgiven.

Unsaved one at present, you are as this man, sins that needed forgiven.

Notice, the Saviour said to Him in **verse 2** “**thy sins,**” plural.

This man had many sins; he had a variety of sins; the Lord knew every one of them.

Yet Christ had all power to remove them all.

Like the paralysed man, sinners are spiritually paralysed, helpless and in need. Unable to help himself, Unable to transform himself,

Unable to walk in the ways of God, Unable to forgive self.

Not only could he not walk, he lacked the strength to stand, he is totally powerless.

This is the sinner's condition as viewed by God.

*Christ shows that there is nothing more vital than the forgiveness of sins.*

At this point the Saviour mentioned nothing about the man's physical state or his being bodily healed, rather the Saviour showed that forgiveness of sins must be the issue above anything else.

When Christ spoke about forgiveness of sins, He was demonstrating that eternal issues should be settled before anything else – before the material and temporal issues of this life.

Don't neglect the eternal value of your soul. The forgiveness of your sin is the most important issue that you could ever face.

**Mark 8:36** “*what shall it profit a man, if he could gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*”

The soul is eternal, can never die, when the body is buried, the soul will either live in heaven because of forgiveness or be punished in hell because it remained in sin.

Listen to **Job 14:10** “*But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?*”

*Answer just now where will you spend eternity?*

## **II SECOND, THE POWER OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

Note the words in **verse 6** “...*the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.*”

The word power means right or authority.

Therefore, only Jesus Christ has the right or authority to forgive sins. Christ is the only mediator between God and man.

Christ alone has been fully appointed by God, with full authority, and ability to forgive sins.

No religious leader or organisation has this divine authority, only Jesus Christ Himself.

That's why the men didn't take their friend to anyone else or the religious leaders of their day.

In fact, they didn't even say to their friend, thy sins by forgiven because they knew they had no authority and ability to forgive.

It is Christ who must forgive and Him alone.

Scripture plainly confirms this in Eph 1:7 "*In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*"

There is no sin that Christ cannot pardon, for He has all authority and power on earth to forgive all kinds of sins.

Scripture gives many examples of all kinds of sinners fully forgiven. Rahab the harlot, Manasseh the murderer. The thief, the publican, Saul of Tarsus the church persecutor, and murderer, Abraham the pagan, Ruth the idolater, the demoniac of Gadara, the damsel,

lives ruined by sin and under Satan's control, but even to Jesus, Satan must bow. Christ has all power to deliver sinners from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light.

He saves the most religious, self-righteous, and rebellious sinners.

Read the list in **1 Corinthians 6:11**, naming the most wicked of sins, but the answer is the same for all sin, ye are now washed, fully forgiven by Christ alone.

**No one deserves heaven, we all deserve hell because we have earned it by our sin, but Christ will forgive all the sins of all who will come to Him by faith alone.**

**Will you come now just as you are! Guilty, internally angry, miserable, oppressed, ruined, controlled by sin, for only Jesus has power to forgive and transform your life, He takes the burden away.**

### **III THIRD, THE PROOF OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

In **verse 6** Christ issues a command to this man— ***“Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”***

These words were for the purpose of proving that He had the power to forgive and giving the evidence that the man was truly forgiven.

The very fact that this man arose and walked and took his bed, was the proof that he was forgiven.

In **verse 3** Christ is charged with being an imposter as well as a blasphemer. In other words, He is being challenged to provide the proof that He can forgive sins and this man is forgiven.

In **verse 5** Christ sets forth the proof that He could forgive sin, by giving a challenging question, “***For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?***”

Christ’s lesson is this, that it is easier to say ***thy sins be forgiven thee*** than it is to say ***Arise, and walk.***

You see any person can **say** to another person ***your sins are forgiven.***

But who is to know whether those sins are actually forgiven? How can you tell if your sins are forgiven.

Think about, when one person, say a religious leader, tells another person your sins are forgiven, how can you tell if they are forgiven?

What most people do is trust in a feeling, emotional experience, they trust in another person words, because that religious person said I’m forgiven it must be so.

And having been deceived, the poor sinner accepts it to be true.

But to the on-looker, others who know you, see no change, you yourself notice no change, there is no visible proof in your life.

having been told that you are forgiven, there is no change with God.

You are still unforgiven, guilty and facing God’s wrath.

It’s easy to say **thy sins be forgiven,**



But it's not easy to say the words '**Arise, and walk**' because that requires, action, evidence, a change, activity rising and walking.

Doing what you never could do before.

If the paralysed man could not rise and walk, the claims of healing are immediately revealed as fraud, and Christ an imposter.

But since only Christ has all power and authority, He commands with a voice of power in **verse 2** "**Thy sins be forgiven thee; and then verse 6, Arise, take up thy bed and go into thine house.**

Christ is teaching an important truth that – ***a changed life is the proof that the believing soul has been pardoned.***

The changed life is emphasised by an immediate new walk ***And he arose,*** –

Christ gave him what he never enjoyed before a desire to please God, and glorify God.

Therefore, men and woman, Christ is able to do for you what no other can, and that is forgive all your sin, and change your life.

The proof of new life is new activity. Spiritual life produces spiritual fruit. A desire to love God, the delight to live for God, the devotion to serve God.

This is rising and walking, because it was never the case before.

**Note verse 6 that Christ told him to go to his house.** It was there, first that he was to prove that he was a new man – in many ways the most difficult place to prove Christ.

because people you live with, or family know all your faults and failures.

But the Lord will enable all who trust Him to demonstrate that sin is forgiven.

Maybe your household needs the transforming power of the gospel, Christ is able to save the household.

#### **IV FINALLY, THE PEACE OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

Notice the words in **verse 2** “***Son be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.***”

The words “***Be of good cheer...***” **take courage.**

The paralysed man due to his health and spiritual condition was anxious, but when the Lord forgave him all of his sin, the Lord gave him perfect peace. **Take courage “thy sins be forgiven thee.”**

You can leave today with the peace of having sins forgiven. You must leave today with peace in your soul. You have nothing to fear. Christ invites you to come.

Better to have the word of forgiveness from Christ, for His forgiveness is peace on earth and peace for eternity.