

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

74- Jesus Demonstrates His Absolute
Authority- Part 12

Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sin- Part 2

Church October 15, 2023

Matthew 9:1-8

- 1 Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over the sea and came to His own city.**
- 2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."**
- 3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes."**
- 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"**
- 5 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?"**
- 6 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."**
- 7 And he got up and went home.**
- 8 But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Truth is an allusive thing. So, even though Truth is not always easy to come by- it is very easy to lose. But there are four things:

1. Truth already exists
2. We **MUST** come to know and understand the Truth that already exists
3. We **MUST** come to “embrace” the Truth that already exists and learn to love it
4. We **MUST** keep the Truth; guard it; and protect it from Error

We need to first come to believe that Truth exists. And that means there are things in this Life that are “Absolute”. They are. And they have always been. And they will always be. But secondly, we must come to *know* the Truth that already exists and *understand* it. And that requires that we engage in some kind of ongoing Process where we are taught and re-taught; where we learn and we re-learn what Truth is.

But it doesn’t stop there- because once we learn what Truth is- we must also begin to love the Truth and embrace it. In other words, we need to be in Agreement with what Truth already is. So, Truth is already there. It is. And we must then move toward Truth- so we will NOT be opposed to it or fight against it- but that we will come to love the Truth and agree with it.

And, finally, we have to have some Way to *keep* the Truth- or we will lose it.

And so, all of the crazy and ridiculous things you read about; and hear; and see; going on in our Country today- is the result of people- who have either never known the Truth that already is; or people who have rejected it; or people who once had it- but have lost it. And that is why they are acting and talking the Way they are.

You see, we are living in a very confused Time when even the very Definitions of Words and Terms are being radically changed to the point where you almost need to have an updated Dictionary with you all the Time to figure out what people are saying.

Ours is the Age when “*Personal Opinion*” and “*Individual Feelings*” have been elevated to be “*Truth*”; while objective, propositional Truth has been devalued to be nothing more than, “*That’s your Opinion!*” And that is why you are hearing things like, “*Math is Racist*”; or “*Biology is Discrimination*”.

But what is even *more* Tragic and Frightening- is that what has happened out in the American Culture is also happening inside the modern, visible Church. And so, the “*Absolute Truth*” of Scripture is routinely being denied as simply, “*Well, that’s just your Interpretation!*”; while some of the most “off-the-wall Beliefs” are being elevated as being “*Biblical Doctrine*”. And the same thing is also tragically happening with ancient Heresies- that Centuries ago- the Christian Church confronted; examined; and formally and officially condemned as “*False Teaching*”. And so, because, in far too many places, the people have literally “dropped their Guard” and ignored the biblical Admonitions to ongoingly seek after; find; love; and keep the Truth of God’s Word close to our Minds and Hearts- the Falsehoods of ancient Apostates is making a huge comeback in our day; and drawing people away from the Truth of God’s Word.

And that is why it is hard for many of us to believe that MOST of the vitally important Doctrines of the Christian Faith were highly Controversial at the time they were developed. But what is even *harder* to believe is that they are highly

Controversial in our Day as well. And if History is correct- these Absolute Truths will *always* be highly Controversial.

Very few people, who make up the population of the Christian Church in the 21st Century know that MOST of the vitally important Doctrines of the Christian Faith had to be “hammered out”- sometimes over long periods of Time- from very intense studies of the Scriptures by great men of God- who valued Truth *more* than they valued personal Relationships. It is difficult for us to grasp that MOST of the vitally important Doctrines of the Christian Faith were debated about; and argued over; and analyzed; and fought over- during both the Time they were being developed; as well as in our Day as well.

And many people today are simply not aware that MOST of the Doctrines of the Christian Faith; that we hold dear to ourselves; that we cannot even imagine not having; that we believe in; and embrace with every fiber of our Being- were NOT joyfully accepted by the majority of the people of the Church during the Time they were first introduced.

For example, the full and true Deity of Jesus Christ is a Doctrine that the Jews categorically rejected when Jesus walked the earth. But many people reject this Truth- even in this Day. And some of the most famous people in American History denied this Truth. Even famous Preachers and Teachers- both throughout History and even today- are on record as denying the full and true Deity of the Christ.

So, even though it is one of the most Comforting Truths in the Bible- to the Saved- it is feared and denounced and fought against and rejected by the Lost. Yet the people who reject Jesus’ Deity can do “great Things” as far as this Natural Life is concerned- even while their soul is in jeopardy.

But here is why all this matters. We are NOT saved by what we “Do”. We are NOT born again; we are NOT forgiven and made Righteous before God- by what we “Do”. All of the “doing: in Christianity- which is a lot- occurs AFTER we have already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; been Forgiven and made Righteous; and after we have been adopted into the Family of God.

So, we are saved by what we believe in; what we confess; and what we trust in. But that means that what we believe in; and what we confess; and what we trust in- matters! And so, that is why we must always study; always learn; always pray; and always hold each other’s feet to the Fire!

We must realize, friends, that the infamous Heretics of Church History did NOT do what they did- so they could be Lost; and so they would scream in Agony in the Lake of Fire. No! They did what they did- so they could supposedly find the Truth! But they didn’t find the Truth. They were led astray by satan! And as they were learning and being taught their Heresy from satan himself- they thought

it was great! They thought it was a “new Revelation” from God! Even when it contradicted what the Scriptures clearly taught!

And when asked about it- the Heretics- almost to a man- unashamedly said that if the Bible doesn't teach what they were teaching- then the Bible should be changed! And that is the Way it is for ALL those who are deceived. They firmly believe they are Right. And so, if anyone or anything- including the inspired; inerrant; and infallible Word of the living God- teaches contrary to what they already believe- then these people will attack the Bible and go about to change what it says! That is the Level to which these people are deceived!

And that is *exactly* what is happening here in the Passage that Brother Vern just read to us! The Pharisees thought they were Right! And they *honestly* thought they were *superior* to even the Scriptures! So, if anyone- even the Incarnate God Himself- teaches anything contrary to what they already believe- then that person MUST be, first, discredited- and then he MUST be destroyed!

Look again at what Jesus said when they brought this Paralytic in verse 2:

"Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

Why did Jesus say that? This man was crippled. He couldn't walk. The Problem was in his legs. So, why didn't Jesus talk about his Sickness or his Disease or his Infirmity that had caused him to be crippled? Why is Jesus talking about the man's Sins?

This gives me Reason to suggest that this man knew he was a Sinner. Now the Bible says he was a paralytic. He couldn't walk. So, he was either born that way; or he contracted a Disease; or was injured; or had some Accident and became Lame. And he might have been a “quadriplegic”- meaning he was totally paralyzed.

Now even today with all of our Advancements with the Common Grace of God in Medicine and Technology- paralyzed people have a very difficult Life. But 2,000 years ago- a paralyzed person really had it rough. But what was even MORE cruel than being a cripple- was the social Stigma attached to his paralysis. Because the common Thought about things like this in 1st Century Palestine was, “This man HAD to be a terrible Sinner for God to have judged him like this”. THAT was the Mentality about Disabilities back then.

All through the Old Testament- people who were “Lame”- were not looked at with Favor. They were looked at as being cursed by God for some terrible Sin they had committed. In fact, the Mentality that was *encouraged* by the Law of God was that ANY Disability; ANY Infirmity; ANY Disease; ANY Malfunction of

the human body was looked at as being God's Judgment against that person because of some Sin they had committed.

And the *common* Mentality of the Jews- *especially* the Scribes and Pharisees- about physical Disability in the 1st Century- was one of Condemnation. And as a Result of that Mentality- the ONLY Question that was usually asked about a person being born Blind or Deaf or Mute or Lame was NOT, "*What can I do to help?*" It was NOT, "*How may I show that person Kindness and the Love of God*". Usually, the ONLY Question asked by the evil Pharisees was the Question they asked Jesus in **John 9:2** about a Man who had been born Blind:

Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?

But why were those Jewish Leaders so hard on the Disabled? Where did that come from? Well, back in **Leviticus 21:17-23**- God spoke to Moses that *anyone* who was disabled- including the Lame- could NOT come near to the Altar of God to offer a Sacrifice. Why? Because the Fact that he was disabled meant that he would, "**profane**" God's Sanctuary.

17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, 'No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.

18 'For no one who has a defect shall approach: a blind man, or a lame man, or he who has a disfigured face, or any deformed limb,

19 or a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,

20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or one who has a defect in his eye or eczema or scabs or crushed testicles.

21 'No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come near to offer the Lord's offerings by fire; since he has a defect, he shall not come near to offer the food of his God.

22 'He may eat the food of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy,

23 only he shall not go in to the veil or come near the altar because he has a defect, so that he will not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the Lord who sanctifies them.'"

Now unlike the many people who seek to condemn God by condemning what God said in the Old Testament- I will tell you that the Old Testament is Good and Right and Holy. The Old Testament, however, is *incomplete* in its Conclusion- because it *correctly* identifies Sin- but gives no way to overcome it- other than to stop sinning- which human beings can't do.

Yet in the Old Testament, we find that God said HE was the ONE Who made the people born with Disabilities. God told Moses in Exodus that He was the one who made the people who were born with various Handicaps. And that proves that the Mentality that people had toward the Disabled- was NOT fashioned by the Old Testament at all- but was simply a reflection of the Darkness of their own heart.

Yet Jesus said He forgave that man! And in verse 2- Jesus told him, **“Take courage, son...”** And the word that was translated here as, “Courage” was the Greek word, (*tharseo*)- that has to do with a Courage that is *subjective*. In other words, it is a *comforting* Courage; an *encouraging* Courage. It is NOT like “*just man-up*”; or “*just grit your teeth and face your Fears*”. That is NOT this word. The word that Jesus spoke was a word of Encouragement- NOT Bravery.

And the fact that Jesus called this man, “Son”- tells me that what was really behind all this was Salvation and NOT physical Healing. The Miracle of Healing was done- to prove a Point and was NOT the Main Issue.

Okay, but then why did Jesus say this in verses 5-7:

5 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?"

6 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

7 And he got up and went home.

This is where the rubber meets the road. This is the crux of the Matter. Jesus was dealing with two things here:

1. The man before Him
2. The Jewish religious Leaders around Him

And to the Man- Jesus said,

"Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

No fanfare- just- “matter of factly”, Jesus said this. But the very FIRST reaction by the unsaved religious Frauds was:

"This fellow blasphemeth."

It was NOT joy that the cripple man was healed- it was just Condemnation toward Jesus. Why? Whi can forgive Sins but God? THAT was the Issue. Jesus had obviously blasphemed because He told this man, who was obviously a wicked

Sinner and under the Judgment of God- that he was forgiven! How could anybody do that? Who does Jesus think He is?

Well, Jesus thinks He is God Almighty in human Flesh. But the Jewish religious Leaders don't. So, not only are they condemning the cripple man- they are now condemning Jesus, too. But these guys were politicians to the max, so they didn't say this out loud. Matthew tells us that some of the Scribes thought this to themselves.

Yet Jesus knew their Thoughts as well as their wicked Hearts. How did Jesus know their Thoughts? He was God and was fully Omniscient! And so, Jesus responded to their Thoughts when He said,

"Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

.. and the Evil they were thinking was that Jesus was blaspheming by telling the cripple man he was forgiven.

So, this wonderful Scene of God's Mercy and Grace and Forgiveness- has now become a very tense Situation with many evil Thoughts- pointed toward Jesus. And so, Jesus "calls their Bluff" and says,

Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?

... and the correct Answer is "NEITHER".

This man was crippled. And NOT a single Scribe or Pharisee could heal him. But neither could they forgive his Sin either. So, they were stuck. Jesus had them- and they knew it!

Now keep in mind that this man may have even been a quadriplegic. He may have fallen and been injured; or he may have been a terrible Sinner- we don't know. Know, by the way- one of the side Effects of some sexually transmitted Diseases that go on untreated- is Paralysis. So, this man may have been a terrible Sinner. But he may also have been born with this Disability. Matthew doesn't tell us.

But in any Event- Matthew is showing his Jewish readers the great Hostility that existed between Jesus and the religious Leaders- even in the middle of a Miracle!

So, by saying, **"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?"** Jesus was putting the religious Hypocrites in a Box. Because it is VERY easy for someone to just walk up and say, "Your sins are forgiven". That's easy. The Priests in the Roman religious System do it every day.

These people supposedly "absolve" people of their Sins- as long as the people confess those Sins; and then obey the Priest as to what mode of Penance

they have to carry out. And this is called, the “Rite of Penance” and it is a total Fraud. But why do the Roman Priests tell the one of has sinned he has to go and “do Something”? The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Purpose of the “Rite of Penance” is to be so humble; so desperate; and so willing to do ANYTHING to be forgiven- that they make God look Bad if He doesn’t forgive them! Talk about Blasphemy!

So, to simply tell somebody, “*Your Sins are forgiven!*” is easy- because it is invisible. Nobody can actually “see” Sins being forgiven- so it is just words that *any* shyster could say. But what counts is that the Forgiveness is Real! But that is invisible, so nobody can see it. But to the Scribes and Pharisees- a physical Sign WOULD matter. And so, Jesus then said,

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home.

Now this was something that was VERY visible! And Jesus is equating this Miracle of Healing with the Forgiveness of his Sins! And my Question is, “*Why?*”.

Why is this man picking up his bed and walking home- healed- why was THAT a Sign that Jesus had the Authority to forgive Sin? Jesus could have simply said what He said in verse 2 about forgiving that man’s Sins and left it at that. The Scribes and Pharisees would have hated Him anyway- and Jesus already knew that. So, there MUST be another Reason.

And there are a few Possibilities:

1. Jesus was judging the Scribes and Pharisees
2. Jesus was proving to those who were there that Day that He was God and had the Authority to forgive Sin
3. Jesus was proving to those who read this Account TODAY that He IS God and He has the Authority to forgive Sin

... and I personally think it is all three.

But there may be one more Reason. Jesus was connecting healing this man’s legs with the Forgiveness of his Sin. And He was doing that to prove a Point- that He knew those Jewish Leaders would understand. And the Apostle Matthew got it, too- which is why it is here in his Gospel Record. So, now we must try to get it.

There is something about physical Healing being connected to the Forgiveness of Sin that Jesus was demonstrating here that meant something very Powerful to those who were there that Day. But it must also mean something very

Powerful to everyone who reads Matthew's inspired Account- even us- 2,000 years later!

But to do that- we must try to ignore our own 21st Century American, Western mind and step into the shoes of a 1st Century Jew- when we read this Passage. And even more than just *any* Jew- we must try to figure out what Matthew was trying to show his Jewish brethren from this Passage. And then we need to also try to connect what Jesus said and did here- with a Truth- a timeless, eternal, Truth- that we may embrace and believe and hope in- in our Day.

Now last Time I told you that whoever the Messiah is- MUST be able to forgive our Sins. All of the Healings and Miracles and Signs and Wonders in the world would not mean very much unless this Person could also forgive our Sins!

And the Old Testament Prophets like Ezekiel and Jeremiah said that the Messenger of the New Covenant would forgive Sin and Transgressions!

So, it is correct to see the Old Testament as being the "Mechanism" that gave the Promise of God- that something infinitely BETTER than the Old Covenant itself was coming- namely Jesus and His finished Work. And it was also the Mechanism that forced us to look for a Savior- precisely because NOBODY could keep the Law.

And that is why Jesus said that the ENTIRE Old Covenant is about Him! That ALL 39 Books are about Jesus! Because Jesus is the ONLY Person who ever fulfilled the Requirement of the Law- and therefore EARNED Righteousness through His Obedience.

So, the Signs and Symbols and Types and Images that we find all through the 39 Books of the Old Covenant are Signs and Symbols and Types and Images of Jesus, the Christ; and of what Jesus alone will do for unworthy Sinners.

So, the Reason God *excluded* the Disabled from offering a Sacrifice here was NOT to be hard or cruel to the Disabled. It was to simply be a Sign or a Symbol that the Messiah- Who will come- will have NO physical Disabilities and be able to offer God a PERFECT Sacrifice!

And even though those Jews who were there that Day and heard Moses speak these words had NO idea about Jesus- Moses was actually paving the Way for a Time- in the Future- when a PERFECT High Priest; would offer a PERFECT Sacrifice; that had to do with a PERFECT Covenant; that had PERFECT Promises! Because now that we have the infinitely *superior* New Covenant- we know that Sin in the Heart is infinitely WORSE than any physical Disability. And that means that the Disabilities that disqualified a person from the Service of God under the inferior Old Covenant was symbolic of the many and various Sins that people commit- that is infinitely MORE disqualifying.

Okay. But what do we do with those Disabilities that people are born with? What are they Symbol of? The Disability that people had from Birth- was a Sign for Sin that a person had- FROM BIRTH! But what was that Sin? What we now call, "*Original Sin*".

The Truth of "*Original Sin*" is one of the most *misunderstood* and *rejected* Doctrines found anywhere in the Bible. The Apostle Paul was the FIRST one to piece it together- *infallibly*- in his Masterpiece called, "**Romans**". Here is what he said in **Romans 5:12**:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Now most *everybody* agrees with the *first* Part of this verse, where the Apostle wrote:

... just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin

Here Paul connects Death with Sin. If you sin- you die! And by doing this- Paul is simply *repeating* what God told Adam in the Garden in **Genesis 2:16&17**:

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Now many people have taught and preached these Verses. But almost all of them say something like this:

"... and even though God promised Adam with Death if he disobeyed- it took nearly 1,000 years for that to actually happen."

... and that is true- *physically; naturally*.

But spiritually speaking- Adam "*died*" the moment he WANTED to Sin. His Act of Disobedience- in eating the forbidden Fruit- was merely the outward Manifestation of the inward Rebellion he had WAY BEFORE he actually ate. So, the Sin occurred BEFORE Adam ate. And his Death occurred almost 1,000 years BEFORE his heart stopped beating.

But look again at that LAST part of **Romans 5:12**:

... and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

Okay, we know that Adam sinned BEFORE he ate. And so, Adam died TWICE. He died “spiritually” BEFORE he ate; and he gradually died “naturally”- AFTER he ate.

Now all through the Bible- Adam is named as the Culprit- NOT Eve. And so, even though Eve sinned too- her Sin was brought about through satan’s Deception- but Adam’s was NOT. Adam sinned because he *wanted* to; because he *genuinely* believed that what God had given him was actually *restraining* him; and he sought INDEPENDENCE from God. So, Adam’s Sin was born of his free Volition and was NOT based on satan’s Deception. And that is why Adam’s Sin was infinitely WORSE than Eve’s.

But Paul taught that EVERYBODY dies. And yet, everybody was NOT in the Garden with Adam. In fact, the Way Paul puts it here in verse 12- is that the Reason everybody else dies who were born AFTER Adam- is because of one simple Truth- that MOST people categorically and historically reject:

... because all sinned

But now we see that the Death that Adam caused is passed down to EVERYONE. Why? Paul says, “*EVERYBODY has sinned against God!*” True- every human being has sinned. Every thinking human being has broken the 10 Commandments *repeatedly*. And they have broken all the other Commandments that flow out from those 10 as well. Okay, that seems to solve the Problem. You sin- you die. Everybody sins- so everybody dies. Simple.

But what about babies? Babies don’t lie; they don’t steal; and they don’t blaspheme God. Babies don’t commit Adultery; they don’t take God’s Name in vain; and they don’t worship Idols. And even though babies wake their Parents up all night- they do NOT *dishonor* their Parents. Yet babies die. Millions of babies die every year all over the world. Why? Paul’s Logic is, “*Babies die because babies sin!*” How could a sweet baby sin against God?

And to make this Truth even *harder* to grasp- we need to also say, “*UNBORN babies die!*” And I’m NOT talking about Abortion here. Women all over the world have what are called, “*Miscarriages*”; or other Problems at some point during their Pregnancy where the unborn baby breathes in quickly- shudders- and then dies- while still in the Womb of its Mother! How does that reconcile with what Paul teaches here? The Truth of “*Original Sin*”.

Now many Believers embrace the “*Doctrine of Original Sin*”. But many MORE eject it. But even among those who embrace it as being true- they usually

ONLY embrace *half* of the Doctrine. Because the Doctrine of Original Sin has *two* Parts:

1. Those born after Adam fell have the SAME “Sin Nature” that Adam had AFTER he ate the forbidden fruit.

... and that “*Sin Nature*” is also called, the “*Adamic Nature*” or the “*Fallen Nature*.”

And this Part of “*Original Sin*” teaches that since everybody has the SAME “*Fallen Nature*” that Adam had AFTER he sinned- then as soon as that baby is old enough to Sin- he will.

So, ALL babies are conceived in their Mother’s Womb with the SAME “*Sinful Nature*” that Adam had AFTER he fell into Sin. But because they are babies- they can’t manifest or display that *Sinful Nature*- until they are old enough to do so. But as soon as they are able to reason- 100% of them will Sin against God in some way.

And that means that Salvation CANNOT be inherited from our Parents. Each soul MUST experience the Miracle of the New Birth- personally- or they will die in their Sins and spend all of Eternity in the Lake of Fire. And that Part of Original Sin is pretty much accepted by the modern Church. But there is a *second* Part to this Doctrine- that is much WORSE; much more INSULTING; and MORE frightening than the *first* Part.

2. EVERY human is personally GUILTY of the Sin of Adam- at the MOMENT of Conception

This second Part of the Doctrine of Original Sin is almost *universally* rejected by the people of the modern Church- even though it is absolute taught in the Scriptures.

This Part says I was judged GUILTY by God BEFORE I was ever born! This Part says that the Sin that causes Death- both spiritually and naturally- was present in me- personally- at the very second of my Conception! In other words- it is as though I sinned in the Garden with Adam!

And THIS is *why* babies die. And it is also *why* Unborn babies die. They haven’t sinned against God- *personally*- but they are personally GUILTY of Adam’s Sin. Why? That isn’t Fair!

This is true because of the “*Law of Imputation*.” In the Bible- there are THREE instances when something was IMPUTED to someone- who didn’t actually deserve it:

1. Our Sins were IMPUTED onto Jesus while He was on the Cross
2. Jesus' Righteousness is IMPUTED to believing Sinners by Faith alone
3. Adam's Sin was IMPUTED to everyone born after the Fall

... and while everybody celebrates the first TWO Imputations- MOST people categorically reject the *third* one. Why? Because to them- it isn't "Fair" for God to impute the GUILT of Adam's Sin on us- because we weren't in the Garden; and we didn't Sin with Adam!

True. But what they forget is that the other two Imputations aren't "Fair" either. It isn't "Fair" that Jesus had to have all of our Sins imputed to Him while He was on the Cross. That isn't "Fair" He didn't sin against God-at all! And it isn't "Fair" that we get to have the spotless Righteousness of Jesus imputed to us by Faith alone. That isn't "Fair"- we didn't walk this world as never sinning!

So, NONE of the three Imputations in the Bible are "Fair". But you shouldn't want "Fair". What we all should want; and what we all should ask for; and beg for; and hope for- is MERCY- NOT "Fairness". You really don't want God to be "Fair" with you. Because if God were "Fair"- then EVERYBODY would go to Hell and NOBODY would be saved.

This 2nd Part of the Doctrine of Original Sin is every bit as important; and every bit as true as the 1st Part- even though it is almost universally despised. But it has to do with the indisputable Fact that we are all born- DEFECTIVE! Spiritually speaking- we are all "Disabled and Handicapped"! How so? We are born with the Same Sin nature as that of Adam. But we don't have to do anything else to be damned by God. Why? Because we are already condemned by virtue of the Fact that we are all personally GUILTY of the Sin of Adam- because we were in his Loins when he sinned in the Garden!

So, Adam was the "Federal Head" of the entire human Race And when he sinned- we sinned. And that is WHY each one of us MUST *personally* experience the Miracle of the New Birth!

Now how does this tie in with what Matthew wrote here with the healing of the paralytic? The Jews of the 1st Century as well as the Jews of today categorically REJECT the Doctrine of Original Sin. They do NOT believe it; nor do they teach it. NEVER have! In fact, when Augustine was battling with the Heretic Pelagius back in the 4th and 5th Centuries- Pelagius used the fact that the Jews never accepted the Fact that ALL men are born already corrupted by the Sin of Adam. And the Jews of the 1st Century believed; and they taught that they were "saved"- in other words, they were the "sons of Abraham"- by virtue of the Fact they were born Jewish. And what Jews teach today and what they have ALWAYS taught about Sin is what the Prophet said in **Ezekiel 18:20**:

The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

... and what the Prophet teaches here is true- but it's also INCOMPLETE!

Yes, the person who sins will die. But the person who sins is NOT the ONLY person who dies. Because Adam sinned- we all have the SAME "Sin Nature" that Adam had AFTER he sinned. But we are also personally GUILTY of the Sin of Adam! How do we know that is true? Two inescapable and indisputable Proofs:

1. That is what the Bible teaches
2. EVERYBODY dies- even unborn babies

Okay, this is a Truth of the Bible that is NOT universally accepted or believed or taught or embraced. And yet, it is true. And it didn't begin to be true when the New Covenant was brought in. Original Sin has ALWAYS been true- even under the Old Covenant- even though the Jews rejected it almost from the Beginning.

Now let us apply this Truth to this Passage here in **Matthew 9**. Jesus healed this cripple man by saying to him,

Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven

But when He said that- the Jewish religious Leaders said,

This fellow blasphemes

... and THAT is when Jesus said,

4 ..."Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

5 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?"

6 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

... and Matthew tells us the man got up; picked up his bed; and went home!

So, by tying in his Disability with Sin; and by equating physical Healing with the forgiveness of Sin- Jesus was doing several things:

- He was proving He was God- because ONLY God has the Absolute Authority to forgive ALL Sin- even the imputed Sin from Adam
- He was shattering the Jews' Man-made Belief that they could *inherit* Salvation by their Ethnicity and Nationality

The Disabilities listed in the Old Covenant that disqualified people from the Service of God are *symbolic* of the many and various Sins that people have- which *disqualifies* people from the holy Service of God. But what do we do with those Disabilities that people are born with? What do they represent? They represent the *imputed* Sin and Guilt that EVERYBODY has from Adam. And Sickness and Disease as well as Disabilities are the Result of Sin and the Curse of Death working in our bodies.

And so, by connecting Disability with Sin- and then by connecting physical Healing with Forgiveness- Jesus was demonstrating that the Jewish understanding of Sin was incomplete. But He was also demonstrating that He and He alone could forgive ALL Sin- the Sins we personally commit; as well as the Original Sin that has been *imputed* to us through Adam! And so, Jesus is able to save Sinners to the uttermost!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

