

Jehovah's Witnesses Part 1 The Doctrine of the Trinity

Jehovah's Witnesses

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Does anyone have a close friend or a relative that is a Jehovah Witness? One right here, two back here. Here. Several. All right. Over here. Anybody else? Yeah?

I have a person that lives across the street that the Jehovah Witnesses have been coming every single week for their in home Bible studies. It is really remarkable the level of zeal that they have. They are really committed to getting in your home and starting a Bible study. That is their objective is to get you reading their watch tower material.

Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, they have massive printing facilities, just tremendous state of the art printing facilities and they are distributing literature in 250 countries all over the world in an alarming rate. And they want to get you reading their material. That is their goal is to get you in and they are going to question doctrine, Christian doctrines and they are going to do their very best to get you in a tail spin and then invite you to where? To a kingdom hall. That is right.

Now why are they using the term kingdom instead of church? They think the church age is over with. They think that Christ has already come back. He came back in 1914. And in a visible way and gave new revelation—that is always the key, new revelation. And the new revelation is to go into the kingdom. So we are living in the kingdom age. That is why we have to have kingdom halls. So that is kind of where you are at. And so that is why you are not going to find pastors and deacons in their organization, because that is part of the church and they are no longer in the church.

So I thought we would spend a couple of Sundays no Sunday night talking about this and looking at what they believe.

What are the doctrines that determine orthodoxy? What are the doctrines that determine whether a church is a cult or not? Talk to me. What comes to your mind? What are the key doctrines that determine whether a church is a cult or not or an organization for lack of better words.

Ok. Clarissa says the trinity. Ok, good.

The doctrine of Christ, Gary says. Who is Christ? How do you see that? Someone says the inerrancy of Scripture, ok. Dwayne said the deity of Christ. Ruth?

The ... how do they view Christ's return. Ok, good.

Right. They don't believe that there is a rapture of the Church. That is right. What else? What are the key doctrines? Dave?

Right. Now a Jehovah Witness would believe in the annihilation of the soul, that the soul is eliminated, that a loving God could not eternally punish anyone and so the way we work around that is that we just destroy the soul.

What you will find as we go through this is that if they run into something that they go too hard to understand or requires faith or doesn't make sense to the common every day rational perspective, then what we do is we change it, because that doesn't... you can't reconcile loving God punishing people for all eternity. That doesn't make sense to me. My mind doesn't comprehend it. So we will change that soul gets annihilated and God is good. And that is what they are going to do.

What about salvation? What would be the issue with salvation? Works. That is right. That the salvation would not be by faith and faith alone. It would be nothing gracious about it or it would be a hybrid. So this becomes our major doctrine that we will deal with. This is a doctrine that you as a family, you as an individual need to know inside and out. This is a critical doctrine. This is the doctrine that Jehovah Witnesses wholeheartedly reject. This is what they cannot... this is repulsive to them. There is no trinity. They say stuff like, "Who can worship a three headed monster?" Ok?

Well, that is because we don't ... we haven't properly explained or they don't understand or... we don't worship a three headed monster. That is not what the doctrine of the trinity teaches. We don't have three heads. There is no indication in the Scripture that the Holy Spirit has a head. The father is a ... a spirit. So we are not dealing with a three headed monster. But if you are not familiar, if you are not inside and out with the doctrine of the trinity, if you don't understand what we mean by one God, three persons, you need to find some good research and read some articles on that. You need to brush up, if you will. You need to make sure that you understand the trinity inside and out. We do not believe that the Son is the Father, the Father is the Son and we do not believe that the Son is the Holy Spirit. We do not believe the Spirit is the Father. Yet we will always affirm one God who has revealed himself to us as three persons.

And what we are going to see as we look at their own Bible tonight is they have major problems with understanding the Father, Son relationship. They have determined that they have to be separate. They cannot be the same in essence or in being or in ... I don't want to say origin, because God has no beginning or no end. They want to give God the Father no beginning and they need to give Christ a beginning. They can't reconcile the idea that one has both do not have a beginning.

Now the average Jehovah Witness is not going to take exception to you calling Jesus the Son of God. So if you say, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?" They are going to say, "Yes. He is. He was made by God. He is the first spirit being." So they are ok with you calling him the Son of God. They think that that actually reinforces their perspective. So you need to know this so you know how to address them on these issues. The issue with them is: Is he God, Jehovah? That is right. That is going to be their perspective.

Now this is from their website. This is a screen print right off of what they say and it is written real simple, designed for the average Joe to be able to go on there and make sense to them. So here we begin with number one. I don't know well you can read it, so let me read it with you.

"Jesus lived in heaven as a spirit person before he came to earth. He was God's first creation and so he is called the first born Son of God."

And they are going to struggle with Colossians 1:15-16. We will go there in our Bibles in a moment and Revelation 3:14.

"Jesus is the only son that God created by himself. Jehovah used the pre human Jesus as his master worker in creating all other things in heaven and on earth."

Give you a couple of references.

"God also used him as a chief spokesman. That is why we call... that is why Jesus is called the Word."

Now, again, we need to recognize lots of subtle truth. So the idea is the Father made Jesus and then Jesus made everything. This is what they ignore. Let's go there in our own Bibles, Colossians chapter one 15 and 16.

By the way, what is the name of their Bible? No, not the book of Mormon. New World Translation. That's right. They have got their own Bible. So we are going to look at their ... I don't know who said the book of Mormon, so, ok, was it you, John? You are welcome. Verse 15.

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the

blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.¹

So now what the Jehovah Witness does is he ignores the first phrase:

“Who is the image of the invisible God...”²

And he focuses on this verbiage right here.

“...the firstborn of every creature.”³

And so they are going to say to you, “Look, Jesus has had a beginning. He had a birth. He was the first born of every creature.”

Now they are not referring to his birth by Mary. They are saying the first born of every creature. What they ignore is:

“...image of the invisible God.”⁴

So let's talk about that in just a moment. I want to deal with this and then we will go back to that. First born indicates a created order is how they believe this to be. Let's go to Psalms 89 and I want to show you a Scripture that you could show to them in their Bible to counter this idea of first born, because first born is making reference to preeminence. So let's go to Psalms 89 and look at verse 27.

Ok, the subject of Psalms 89 is King David. And the Bible says:

“Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.”⁵

All right, was David a first born son? No. David wasn't first born son. So then how is God using the description here of King David? He is referring to his position as the king. He is going to elevate him to an above, a position of preeminence.

See, the Jehovah Witnesses limit first born to mean just the basic literal understanding. They believe that it means first person created. They don't understand that first born is describing a position of preeminence. Because we don't understand that from our society. In our society we divide the inheritance among the kids equally. Divide it five, 20 percent. They don't... we don't do anything like they did in the past. If you are the first born you are getting 60 percent of the share and the other four, they have to divide the other 40 percent or whatever. So they... we don't understand first born from a position of

¹ Colossians 1:15-20.

² Colossians 1:15.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Psalm 89:27.

preeminence or a position of elevation or a position of he is the exalted one, words to that effect.

And then they ignore the image of the invisible God or the icon. Now here is a parallel verse in their Bible. So this is what I am doing. I am going to their online Bible and I am looking at Hebrews 1:3. So that is how you find it. And it says, referring to Christ:

“He is the reflection of his glory and the exact representation of his very being and he sustains all things by the word of his power and after he made a purification for our sins he sat down on the right hand of the majesty in lofty places.”

So this is what I might ask. If Jesus Christ has a beginning, which they suggest he does, then I want to know how is he—now asking them from their own Bible—how is he the exact representation of his very being? Because this is what it says. It is very clear. Let’s just slow down and make sure we all understand what we are saying here. Hebrews 1:3 from their Bible says he is in context. It is there. It is very clear it is Jesus.

“He is the reflection of his glory and [now ask them this] the exact representation of his very being.”

If Jesus has a beginning and God the Father does not have a beginning, then that means he can not be the exact representation of his being, because their being is not the same. One has an existence that started. One has an eternal existence. Being is the existence, right? You follow me on that. And so if one had a beginning and the other one doesn’t have a beginning, then that means one is eternal and the other one is not eternal which means the Son, according to this verse right here, cannot be the exact representation of his very being.

All right. Let me slow down. Maybe we are not connecting. The doctrine of the trinity, triune God is challenged by cult because we do not have a single verse that says you must believe in the trinity. So they will throw in our face the word trinity is not even in the Bible. And they are correct. The word trinity is not in the Bible. So what happens is as we look at all that is described about Jehovah or Yahweh or God in the Old Testament and all that is described about Christ and all that is described about the Spirit, the Holy Spirit the earliest Church fathers, I am talking about 50, 60, 70, 100, 150 AD, began to put these Scriptures together and they determined, oh, God must be one God who has revealed himself as three persons who are equal in essence and being and attributes because of the Scriptures that make reference to, for example:

“I and my Father are one.”⁶

How can they be one if there isn’t a triune God? So the doctrine of the trinity doesn’t drop out of us at a certain Scripture and you go, “Let me take you to this verse and show you the doctrine of the trinity.” The doctrine of the trinity is pulled from an understanding of all the passages in the Bible. And what happens is either, you have got two scenarios.

⁶ John 10:30.

Scenario number one is the doctrine of the trinity is right and correct or, scenario number two is Scripture contradicts Scripture. Because either yes God is one who has revealed himself to us in three persons or you have Bible verses that contradict themselves. Is God the Father one? He said he was. That must mean they are one.

Well, wait a minute. This Scripture says here that he is the exact representation of his very being. So then they looked at that and said, "I am talking about the early Church father as they are trying to understand who Jesus is." He is the same being as the Father. That means he has the same attributes. He has the same essence. He has the same omnipresence. He has the omnipotence. He has the same omniscience. He has the same eternity.

They took the attributes that were reflected of God in the Old Testament and they looked at the attributes that Christ presented himself as and they realized that God must be revealing himself to us in three persons. Yet they knew that the Bible said over and over again one God, one God, one God, one God. So they had to hold true to one God who has revealed himself to us as a Father, as a Son and as a Holy Spirit.

Now let me just throw out to you very quickly. Where would you take a person to show them the trinity? Where do you think one of the best examples of the triune God is seen? That is right, the baptism of Jesus Christ is probably the best example. So we are going to Matthew chapter number three, right? Matthew three. We are going to Matthew three. Not right now. I mean that is where you take somebody if you were struggling with regard to showing them a triune God who has revealed himself to us in three persons.

So what I want to know is: If Jesus is, in fact, the reflection of his glory and he sustains all things by the word of his power and is the exact representation of his being, this means the quality or state of having existence, how can a created being exactly represent a spirit that has always existed? That is what you want to ask them.

See, they have got to be confronted in their not believing in the trinity. That is what you are going to have to go right back at them with. That is the heart of who they are, which is a clear reflection of the trinity. So if you take them away from Colossians and run in their own Bible to Hebrews 1:3 and say, "Now, please explain to me if God has always Jehovah, use that, that is fine. Jehovah has always existed and Christ is a created being that has not always existed then how could Christ be who has a body at one point and was no longer... and wasn't in existence and now had an existence or a beginning, how could he be the exact representation of the Father?"

Ok, before we move on, I want to make sure there aren't any questions about this point. Please ask them, because if you have a question, someone else does.

Ok.

So you need to know, commit it to memory the major attributes of who God is. And the first attribute that we always want to speak of God as is his eternity. We always want to

speak of the fact that God has no beginning and has no end. He has always existed. And he will always exist. And they will affirm that... those attributes for who? They will affirm them for Jehovah. That is who they will affirm them for. And they will say... and that is different than Christ.

Number two is omnipotence. Number three is omnipresence. And number four is omniscience. And so a created being has a beginning. A created being we receives power. Right? He didn't always have that power.

What power are you talking about, preacher? You are losing us.

The Jehovah Witness believes that Jesus created all things. That is what they believe. They believe that he was the creator. God created Jesus and Jesus created everything. Because they can't get around Colossians 1:16. So the work around is God created Jesus and Jesus created everything.

But in being a created being, that means that there was a moment in which he did not have the power that God gave him. Even if, for lack of better description it was a millisecond. Are you understanding? I am not... I don't feel like I am explaining it very well. First he had a beginning. You are now Jesus. And then at whatever moment later in order to create all things he had to receive power from God to create. What that means is there was a moment when he did not have... I am using moment as a sense of time. There was a moment in which he did not have power. If he did not have power, church, that means he is not omnipotent, because omnipotent means he has always had power, not that he got it. He received it. That is not what we are saying. Omnipotent means God has always had the power to create.

In other words, there is never a moment where God could speak things to {?}. It wasn't like God all the sudden got this power. God has always had this power, but what I want to share with you is a created being must receive power.

All right, number three. If Jesus is the exact representation of God according to Hebrews chapter one verse three and God is omnipresent, Jesus is not omnipresent. Where is Jesus according to the Jehovah Witnesses? He is on the right hand of the Father and in majesty. Their own literature would say that. So if Jesus on this planet or later on is the exact representation of Jehovah, then how can he be... if he is not omnipresent and they would say he is not omnipresent.

Number four. A created being knows only what he has learned. Jesus wasn't born omniscient. Now wait a minute. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. I ... yes, as God he was born that way. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am saying when you are arguing with a Jehovah witness, when you are trying to show them that in order to say that Jesus is the exact representation of his being, you can show them either your doctrine is wrong or Hebrews 1:3 is wrong.

Now when you embrace the trinity as your doctrine, then Hebrews 1:3 is perfect. You

don't have any problems with Hebrews 1:3. It makes sense, because we believe that Jesus is God. And as God he is omnipotent, omnipresent, all knowing. He is eternal as God. And because of our understanding of the humanity and the deity of Christ, we can reconcile these things. But because the Jehovah Witness resists the reconciliation of humanity and deity what they would say is he was, is indifferent, so there different existences before he came on this earth, while he was on this earth and post on this earth. We would not say that.

So here is the fact. It is impossible for a created being to be an exact representation of an eternal being. So Mr. Jehovah Witness, either Hebrews 1:3 is wrong or your doctrine is wrong, one of the two. You have got to force them to reject the Bible, their own Bible or their doctrine.

Jehovah Witnesses will run to this verse, John 14:28. They will run to this verse. They want to take you to this verse. And if I haven't exposed you to this, then this will throw you off and you will be left going... and we don't want you that way. We want you to be ready to give an answer.

“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”⁷

And so they are going to say, “See, that proves it. The Father is the almighty God and Jesus is a mighty god.” That is how they are going to come to you. See, that proves it. God the father is almighty. See? Jesus even said it out of his own mouth.

We are not arguing that the Father is the head of the trinity. We are not arguing with that. We don't believe that they flipped a coin and decided who is going to be in charge. We don't believe that they go from day to day wondering, “You want to be in charge today?” The father is always the head of the trinity. The doctrine of the trinity, although we say that they are equal, what we mean by equal is we mean they all possess the same attributes, eternal, omnipresent, all knowing, those attributes.

God is love. Jesus is love. The Holy Spirit is love. Jesus is not more love or less love than God the Father or God the Spirit. They are equal in what they possess and who they are within the God head. So we are not going to argue with them with regard to who is leaden the godhead. Maybe this could help us. First among equals. The Father is the first among equals. The Son loves to submit to the Father and this is what the Son is communicating here. There has never been in the moment of the trinity a moment when they were wrestling with power. There was never a moment in which the Son was jockeying for position. There was never a moment when the Holy Spirit was wondering: Man, I sure would like to be in charge today.

The Father has a role within the triune God. The Son has a role within the triune God. The Spirit has a role within the triune God and they all three love their roles, are thrilled with their roles, complement each other in what we can't comprehend because we have a

⁷ John 14:28.

flesh nature. There is perfect unity in the trinity. There has never been a moment, Joe, of jealousy in the trinity. There has never been a moment of envy in the trinity. There has never been a moment of anything that would be classified as sin within the trinity.

So what the Son is communicating here is: Dad is in charge. I am willing. I love my Father. My Father is greater than me. I am going to submit to my Father. I came to do the will of my Father. So this is communicating, in my understanding, love, admiration, respect, modeling for us as believers a perfect understanding of our heavenly Father and our Son relationship.

The Son is not jealous or irritated or upset that he is the Son. The Son is thrilled to be the Son. So in position the Father is greater than the Son, but not in being. So this is why I said to us, all of us tonight. You have got to know the trinity inside and out, because this is the doctrine that you struggle with. The Son submits perfectly to the Father because of their perfect relationship.

All right. The Jehovah Witnesses have great issues with reconciling 1:18.

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”⁸

They have tremendous issues with this, because this is what they are going to say to you. If Jesus is God, then this verse is wrong, because we have seen Jesus. It is very clear.

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father.”⁹

What you are going to need to show the Jehovah Witness is that in your New Testament the majority of your references to God is to God the Father. So our author John is making reference to who? God the Father. He is telling us this. It is true. No man has seen God the Father. This is why we believe in many of the Old Testament appearances of God are Christophanies. They are preincarnate Christ appearing. Some of the best ones are with Abraham in the book of Genesis.

So you take them to this verse in their Bible, John 10:30.

“I and my Father are one.”¹⁰

And you ask them how does this work? Because with my understanding of the trinity this makes perfect sense. But with their understanding, how can they be one? They would say they are not one, but you have got to show them they are one.

Now remember, a Jehovah Witness is not reading his Bible. What is he reading? That is

⁸ John 1:18.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ John 10:30.

reading. He is reading Watchtower material. He is reading what they want. That is why they are going to flood you with material. The father, Charles Russell, right, Charles Russell of Jehovah Witnesses was quoted as saying it would be better for you never to read the Bible again and read only Watchtower material than not read Watchtower material and read the Bible. And so that is why they are publishing their material so that they can show you what verses they want you to read. So this means you need to know your Bible. You need to know what verses to take them to, because in their own Bible taking it out of their hands, flipping it to them and handing it back to them say, "Please tell me what does this say? And then explain to me based on your understanding of who Christ is, how is the Father and Jesus one?"

There... this is, again, from their website.

"Where did Jesus come from?"

Pulling it out of, please notice, www.watchtower.org and then you can see the specific article. Where did Jesus come from?

"Jesus is Jehovah's most precious Son and for good reason. He is called the firstborn of all creation."

It is very selective. We are going to pick and choose what verses we want to remove.

"For he was God's first creation. There is something else that makes ... that... this Son special. He is the only begotten Son. This means that Jesus is the only one directly created by God. Jesus is also the only one whom God used when he created other things. Then, too, Jesus is called the Word, John 1:14."

So now you are going to take them in their Bible and show them that this insertion right there.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was [please notice how they get around it] a God."

And what the beauty of the 21st century is you could take them in their own ... if they had a computer. Maybe they don't. I don't know how behind they are. You could take them to blueletterbible.org, something real simple and show them that there is no article in the Greek. There is no article. There is no article. What that means is the a has been inserted. It has been added. That is what I am showing you right here. o (ho) is the article. λογος (log'-os) is the Word. ην (ane) is the verb. θεος (teh'-os) is God. The word was God. That is it.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."¹¹

Now they are going to say to you, "How was the Word?"

¹¹ John 1:1.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”¹²

“How can you be with something and God?”

What are you going to back to? The doctrine of the trinity. You see, either the doctrine of the trinity is correct or this Scripture is wrong, because how can the Word be with God and be God if the doctrine of the trinity is wrong? When you understand God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, then you can easily say the Word is God and the Word is with God. That makes perfect sense, because God is one God who has revealed himself as three eternal beings who have always coexisted for all eternity.

“This one was in the beginning with God. All things were...” reading from verse three. “All things came into existence through him and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.” This is great.

You are in their own Bible. And you are going to show them that according to their doctrine this is wrong, because what came into existence? He did. See, don’t miss this. Please, wake yourself up right now. Get a Mountain Dew, whatever you need to do.

“All things came into existence through him and apart from him not even...”

I love it. I am going to throw right back at them. Not even one thing. Wait a minute. You just told me a minute ago that God made Jesus. But your own Bible says not even one thing came into existence. But according to your doctrine, really what it should say is one thing came into existence and the one thing that came into existence is Jesus. And then Jesus is the one.

See, these men that made this translation were not very bright. Ok? All right? That is the nice way of saying stupid, ok? And they made it in the pre computer days. So they did not have the advantage of doing all the searches that you could do today if you were going to try to rewrite a Bible. And because they didn’t know their Bibles very well, they missed things, because if you were trying to correct the Scripture—which is what they did. They made a concerted effort to correct the Scripture. They made a major blunder right here.

“All things came into existence through Jesus and apart from Jesus not even one thing came into existence.”

And so you ask them, then, how did Jesus come into existence then?

Now if you ask me that question, I will tell you Jesus has always existed, but that is because of my understanding of the doctrine of the trinity. Because they reject the doctrine of the trinity they need to answer in front of you. Then please tell me how Christ came into being.

¹² Ibid.

Now, still in verse 14 in their own Bible.

“And so the Word became flesh and resided among us and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an only begotten Son from a Father and he was full of undeserved kindness and truth.”

Now please notice what they have omitted, the glory, the only begotten and the Father. See how subtle it is? It is very subtle. Please notice. It is very subtle so you need to notice it. A glory, an only begotten Son and a Father. What are they trying to get to? They are minimizing who we are talking about here. Because they don't want you to see the correlation between God the Son and God the Father. They want you to see Jesus as a created being and, as such, they are going to just take that article real simple, a glory and an only begotten and a Father. If you would show them in your own Bible the glory, the only begotten, the Father, you could show them the full reconciliation between verse one, verse three and verse 14.

This is in their Bible, church. Take them to their Bible and run to John 20:28 and show them Thomas' great confession in which he said:

“My Lord and my God.”¹³

Now, if Christ is not the same in essence and being and attributes as the Father, then he cannot be my God like that. The only way he can be my God like that is if the Son is God in the same way that the Father is God.

Jesus said:

“Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”¹⁴

Jehovah Witnesses do not understand why Jesus would refer to the Father as God if he was also God. Once, again it goes back to the doctrine of the trinity. They don't understand the perfect relationship between the Father and the Son. The Son loves the Father so who else would the Son's God be, but the Father? That is the only way it works.

He says:

“I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”¹⁵

¹³ John 20:28.

¹⁴ John 20:17.

¹⁵ Ibid.

What is Jesus trying to help the disciples understand? That he is God. That is his focus. He wants the disciples to understand that he is not a prophet. He is not a teacher. He is God. God is walking around with them.

You are familiar with the text when they said, “Show us the Father.” And you hear Christ being frustrated. “Golly, how long have I been with you and you are still asking this question? Do you not get it?” That is what the... He is expressing to them.

“If you just show us the Father, we will be good.”

You have been with me. We have been eating, sleeping, drinking together. You have seen me do everything that the Father does. Gain, one of my favorite examples. I have shared it with several people, lots of different times. Why did he say, “Rise up and walk, take your palette away”? Why did he say that and why did he say, first, “Your sins are forgiven?”

You know the story. We will end with this story. Just let me refresh your mind real quick and then we will be done. They are in the house or, you know, kind of a building or something and they are all crowded around there and they want to get this guy healed. Right? So how do they do it? They drop him down in. So here comes dropping down in and he has been paralyzed all his life. And what does Jesus say? He says, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Wait a minute. Are you kidding me? We didn't do all this work to get the guy's sins forgiven. That is not why we... he is paralyzed. We are not looking for his sins to be forgiven. But Jesus did that very intentionally. It was very urgent that he said it that way. It wasn't... he said it on purpose like that. And then what does the Scripture say? He knew their thoughts. And what were they thinking, church? That is right. Every Jew has been taught only God can forgive sins. You have got a lot of nerve, buddy. Only God can forgive sins. You don't go around saying stuff like that. Jews had a healthy reverence for who God is. They didn't flippantly say stuff that only God could say. That is why they didn't use the full name Yahweh when abbreviated it Elohim and because they had a healthy reverence for God. And only God can forgive sins.

So knowing their thoughts he says to them, “So that you can know that I have the power to forgive sins, so that you can know that I have the same attributes that God has, so that you can know that God is sitting right here front of you, so that you can know I am God.” What does he tell them? Yeah. “Get up. Get up and take your bed with you.”

Now don't miss that miracle. Don't miss that miracle. This a man who has never walked in his entire life. Think about all that was healed at that given moment. He didn't have to learn how to walk. Instantly he was given the ability to walk. Even if he was healed as a paralytic, even if that came back, he would normally have to go through what? Physical therapy. God did it all in that moment, instantly. It... think about that. Muscles that had never worked before, arms that had never worked before, legs that had never walked

before. And not only were they healed, not only was the central nervous system healed, not only that, but the muscles were strengthened.

Now, remember. These are muscles that have never walked, Tom. Think about how degenerate those muscles are. Think about how there must have been barely anything there. These are muscles that have never been exercised. This is a person who has never taken even one step.

So don't think in terms of just his central nervous system was healed. We are talking about an incredible miracle on par with: Lazarus, rise up and walk. That same level of infusion of central nervous system, muscles, brain, learning, blood flowing there, psychologically to believe that he could do it. This is a guy who has never walked. And he does all that to make sure that you know and I know that the Son has the same power to forgive sins that the Father has.

And so let's wrap it up right now. We went over time. This is it.

Dan.

[off mic voice]