

Your Sins are Forgiven

Matthew 9:1-8

Main Truth: God is the one with the authority to forgive sins

Isaiah 35:1-4

After healing the two demon possessed men on the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus returns by boat to Capernaum.

Matthew 9:1-2 (see Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26)

Some men bring a paralyzed man to Jesus to be healed. Unable to reach Jesus by going in the front door of the house, the men climb up onto the roof of the house and lowered the paralyzed man down before Jesus.

Isaiah 35:5-7 Jesus responds to the faith that these men showed with forgiveness and healing. Jesus demonstrated his authority as the promised Messiah to heal the sick.

There are both spiritual and physical implications to consider. Jesus opens the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, heals the lame to walk and the mute to speak. He also opens the spiritual eyes of those who cannot see God clearly, the ears of our hearts so we can respond to His eternal Word, and heals the souls of the spiritually lame so they can take the gospel to the ends of the earth. He gives His followers the gospel message to speak and to live out in their lives.

Jesus is showing that His kingdom is not about our expectations but about the meek inheriting the earth. He seeks those who bend a knee to Him and His power in humility. It is through faith in Him, belief in His power and authority that healing happens.

The friends of the lame man had faith in Jesus. They did their part by bringing the lame man and placing him at the feet of Jesus so he could be healed.

John 9:1-5 Jesus is quick to point out how dangerous it is as Christians to always attach sin to a person's circumstance. We live in a broken world with brokenness as a result.

Jesus compassionately deals with the eternal before the physical with the lame man. "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven". More important than physical healing was spiritual healing.

Matthew 9:3 Instead of praising God for the healing of the lame man, the teachers of the law were saying to themselves that Jesus was blaspheming. Throughout the book of Matthew, we see Jesus continually facing opposition for the kind of Kingdom He has brought and that He is the King Himself.

Matthew 9:4-5 Jesus can read the minds of the men and directly confronts them on their wrongness. Our thoughts and opinions are open to God and he sees our heart.

Psalms 103:1-3 God first focuses on the spiritual need and then on the physical need. The spiritual leaders of Israel needed their faith challenged and their spiritual lameness dealt with.

Matthew 9:6-7 Jesus could make good on His claim to heal the man and it gave proof of His claim to also have the authority to forgive sins. Jesus accomplishes the two things He questioned the religious leaders about: First “your sins are forgiven” and then “take up your mat and go home”.

The man was instantly healed, proving that Jesus did have the power of God to both forgive and to heal.

With the forgiveness of sins, we know that He has the authority to heal us of our iniquity. With His power to heal, we know that He has the power to defeat the eternal separation that our sins have created.

Scripture tells us that I am forgiven by putting my faith in Christ alone and that we have eternal life because of the power of Jesus alone.

Matthew 9:8 Because of the power of Christ’s words the lame man’s sins were forgiven and he was able to walk.

John 19:30 What Jesus does for us eternally changes us and needs to be a conversation we share with others for life.

We can trust the words of Jesus spoken on the cross when He said “It is finished”. It means that we are forgiven. Jesus changed everything and our job is to be walking testimonies for Him.

“Your sins are forgiven!”

Main Truth: God is the one with the authority to forgive sins

Application: Trust in His authority, bring your sin to Him, and walk in His as a living testimony

Isaiah 35:8-10

Small Group Discussion Questions

Your Sins are Forgiven Matthew 9:1-8

Read Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

1. What differences can you find between these three recordings of Jesus healing the lame? What do you think there are some of the reasons for these differences?
2. Why did the friends of the paralytic go to such great effort for Jesus to see him? What can you say about those friends?
3. Why do you think Jesus only said to the one man that his sins were forgiven instead of to all five? What did He see in that situation that we cannot?
4. In this passage what is the relationship between the friend's faith and their works?
5. How did the scribes react? Why did they react like this?
6. Which do you think is easier to say (verse 5)? Explain.
7. Why did Jesus heal the lame man?
8. How did the people react to this healing?
9. Did the healing of the lame man achieve the goal Jesus was seeking?
10. What insights into Jesus' character do you have from this passage?
11. Are there any applications for us to follow?

Personal Study Guide

Sin and Forgiveness

The Bible teaches that God forgives sins when we repent, and we are called to forgive others as He forgives us.

1 John 1:9

Colossians 3:13

Ephesians 4:32

Luke 6:37

Mark 11:25

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Roman 5:8

Ephesians 1:7

Titus 3:5

Romans 8:1

1 Peter 5:10

Proverbs 28:13

Psalms 32:5

1 John 2:1

Matthew 18:21-22

Luke 17:3-4

Psalms 103:12

Isaiah 1:18

Isaiah 43:25