

## Miracle 8 Jesus Heals a Paralytic Let Down Through the Roof

Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Matthew. 9:1-8- 1 And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. 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; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house. 8 But when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Mark 2:1-12 1 And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and 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: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken *it* up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this *man* thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Luke 5:17-26—17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought *means* to bring him in, and to lay *him* before him. And when they could not find by what *way* they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with *his* couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

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### **The Context: (9:1; 2:1-2; 5:17):**

- 1) Several days after cleansing the first leper (miracle #7), Jesus gets in a ship (boat) and crosses over the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum on the northern coast of the sea.
- 2) Matthew states that He “came into His own city” (Jesus used Capernaum as His “base of operations” for His Galilean ministry).
- 3) Mark tells us that It was heard (noised) that Jesus was in a house; thus, many were assembled (gathered together) so that there was no longer room at the door.
- 4) Mark says Jesus was speaking the word (logos), but does not tell us what He was speaking about concerning the word.
- 5) Luke gives a little more detail telling us that there were Pharisees, law-teachers, and Scribes (v. 21) from cities in Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem setting listening to Jesus teaching. These three groups of people made up the religious leaders of Jesus’ time. The Pharisees interpreted and imposed Jewish religious laws; the Scribes wrote and established Jewish religious laws and regulations; law-teachers were experts and interpreters of the Mosaic law.
- 6) Luke also tells us that the “power” (Greek dunamis- inherent power or ability) of the Lord was in Him to cure (restore to bodily health).”

### **The Situation (9:2a; 2:3-4; 5:18-19):**

- 1) “Behold” (Look; See) a demonstrative particle which calls attention to that which follows.
- 2) Mark tells us that four men brought (came carrying) a paralytic man on a mattress (cot, stretcher).
- 3) Because of the crowd (2:4; 5:19), they could not get to Jesus; so, they “unroofed the roof” where Jesus was and lowered the paralytic on his cot to where Jesus was.
- 4) Can you imagine the scene! Four determined men, (not dissuaded by the crowd, and disturbing Jesus’ teaching), dismantle part of the roof to get their friend to Jesus.
- 5) Notice that Jesus doesn’t complain about the falling dirt and dust, the noise, or the interruption of His teaching.
- 6) Also, we must love others so much that we would be willing to “tear through the roof” to get the spiritual healing for those around us that know not Christ.

### **The First Miracle (9:2b; 2:5; 5:20): Forgiveness of sins**

- 1) Jesus “sees” (Greek eido (from oida) to perceive, to see, to know perceptively) their faith. Christ has eyes to see faith.
- 2) Jesus saw the faith of the four men; “their” faith (not yet speaking of the faith of the paralytic). These men didn’t talk; they trusted. Their faith was persistent, creative (would you have thought of going through the roof?), and sacrificial (someone would have to repair the roof- time, expense, labor).
- 3) This was vicarious faith (on behalf of, for another). We need to have vicarious faith today by prayer for the unsaved, by sharing the gospel, by inviting to church, by intercessory prayer, by helping our neighbor, and many other things that show Christ to others.
- 4) Now Jesus makes a shocking statement: “thy sins are forgiven.” While others see the physical paralysis, Jesus sees the spiritual paralysis first. Forgiveness of sins is both man’s greatest need and Christ’s most important miracle.
- 5) Though nothing is said of the paralytic’s faith here, forgiveness of sins indicates that he had faith also.

(over)

### **The Second Miracle (9:3-6a; 2:6-10; 5:21-24a): Knowing thoughts of the religious leaders**

- 1) Again, “Behold” (Pay attention): The Scribes and the Pharisees began to reason (literally throwing thoughts back and forth in their hearts). They were questioning, deliberating, thinking through what Jesus had just said (Prov. 23:7).
- 2) They questioned/said, “This one blasphemes” (to slander; to speak profanely of; to defame). The scribes had three levels of blasphemy: to speak profanely of God’s law; to speak profanely of God Himself; and most severe was to usurp the role of God (by attributing to another God’s incommunicable attributes or authority).
- 3) They go on to question/say, “Who can (is able to) forgive sins except God only (alone)?” They immediately perceived this as an unequivocal claim of deity.
- 4) Jesus then does a second miracle: “Jesus knowing (oida- perceiving) their thoughts (inward reasoning).”
- 5) Jesus demonstrates this knowledge (omniscience) and authority by three statements:
- 6) First, “Why think ye evil (wicked, bad) things in your hearts.” Jesus is not speaking of the physical organ (heart), but the desire producing, affective center of our being. Matt. 15:18-20.
- 7) Second, “For which is easier to say, your sins are forgiven; or to say, Rise up and walk? Jesus didn’t ask them which was easiest to do, but which is easiest to say. Obviously, it’s easier to say the “unseeable” rather than the “seeable.” These were rebuking questions for these criticizing naysayers.
- 8) Third, He makes a purpose statement; “but that ye may know (perceive) that the Son of Man has authority on the earth to forgive sins...” Jesus proclaims His authority (right and might) to forgive sins that only God can do. He uses His favorite description of Himself; “Son of Man” (used 84 times by Jesus). This is His title of incarnation; identifying as fully man. The God-man forgives sins!

### **The Third Miracle (9:6b; 2:11; 5:24b): Healing the Paralytic**

- 1) Jesus just speaks and the paralytic is healed.
- 2) Jesus speaks three imperative commands: Rise; Take your mattress (pallet, cot); and Go (to your house). Get up, pick up, and go.

### **The Results (9:7-8; 2:12; 5:25-26):**

- 1) There was immediate obedience. He obeyed all three of the Jesus’ commands. What the Lord commands; He enables.
- 2) Jesus demonstrates the unseen (spiritual forgiveness) by the seen (physical healing). “When the paralytic walks; the miracle talks.”
- 3) The man left glorifying God (5:25).
- 4) Bewilderment (disturbance of the mind caused by shock) took (came upon) all (5:26).
- 5) All were “astonished” (amazement mixed with anxiety or fear-2:12). Luke says “filled with fear” (5:26). Matthew says “The crowds feared” (9:8).
- 6) All three Gospel accounts say that God was glorified.
- 7) It is said, “We saw wonderful things today” (5:26); “Thus never we saw” (2:12).
- 8) All of this is stimulated by unexplainable events by Jesus.
- 9) Evidence and amazement do not always end unbelief. “Seeing is not believing” for these hard-hearted religious leaders. None of the three synoptic accounts state that “belief or faith” was the result of these three miracles.
- 10) Do these three miracles strengthen our belief in Jesus?
- 11) Do we obey the commands of Jesus immediately and completely? John 14:15