

## Matthew 9:1-8 The Lord's Power On Earth to Forgive Sins

Introduction: After being asked to leave by the Gadarenes Jesus returned to Capernaum. There he healed a palsied man, a paralytic. This gave demonstration of his power to forgive sins.

### I. The bringing of the paralytic. Verse 2

- A. They brought a paralytic to be healed. Verse 2 . His legs were paralyzed. (Mark chapter 2 says four men brought him.)
- B. The bed on which he lay was but a thin pad. (It made a good stretcher.)
- C. Matthew does not mention that trouble they had in getting the man into the house, but Mark does.
  - 1. So many were in the way that the men could not get in.
  - 2. They let him down the roof into the room

### II. Their faith. Verse 2

- A. Jesus saw their faith. Verse 2.
- B. He saw the faith of the men who brought him. (Anyone could see their faith.)
- C. He saw the faith of the man who was brought. (Only Jesus could see his faith.)

### III. The forgiveness of his sins. Verse 2

- A. Apparently this man's sin had caused his condition.
- B. Sin always causes suffering.
  - 1. It can cause worse than paralysis.
  - 2. It can cause death. Roman 6:23; James 1:15.
  - 3. It can cause everlasting suffering in hell.
- C. Note how tenderly Jesus spoke to him.
  - 1. Jesus was reassuring him that his sins were forgiven.
  - 2. He probably feared that his sins might hinder him from being healed.
- D. These words of forgiveness are some of the sweetest words possible to a sin burdened heart.

### IV. Disbelief of certain scribes. Verses 3-4

- A. Their disbelief contrasts to the faith of the paralytic man and those who brought him.
- B. Their's was an unspoken cynical attitude. (They questioned His authority to forgive, knowing that only God can forgive and refusing to believe He is God. Like many today who never speak against Christianity, but whose hearts refuse to believe.)
- C. Jesus pointed out the evil of their hearts.

### V. The healing of the paralytic. Verses 5-8

- A. Jesus healed the paralytic. He had authority to heal.
- B. When He forgave the man's sins none could see.
- C. But all could see when He healed the man.
- D. By this they could know that He can forgive sins.
- E. What they could not now know was that in order to be able to forgive He must lay down His life.

Conclusion: Now that same Jesus looks down from heaven ready to forgive other sinners. There are no doubt sinners here who need to be forgiven.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 2-20-83 A.M.