



Chapter 9:1-8

- Matt. 8:1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.
- Matt. 8:2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”
- Matt. 8:3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”
- Matt. 8:4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?
- Matt. 8:5 For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?
- Matt. 8:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” — then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”
- Matt. 8:7 And he arose and departed to his house.
- Matt. 8:8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Mark’s account

- Mark 2:1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.
- Mark 2:2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.
- Mark 2:3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.
- Mark 2:4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.
- Mark 2:6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
- Mark 2:7 “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Observations & Discussion

1. Which verse in our text captures the **main point** that the Holy Spirit wants us to understand? What is the main point (or theme) and why is that important to you?
2. In the parallel account found in Mark 2:1-4 what can you discern about the **character** of the four men who carried the paralytic to Jesus from our text?
3. What did the four men **do** for the paralytic that he could **not do** for himself? What's the spiritual lesson we can apply to our lives?
4. What **obstacles** did the four men meet as they worked to get their friend to Jesus? What obstacles have you encountered as you work to bring your friends to Jesus? How do you get around those obstacles?
5. Why do you think Jesus dealt with the paralytic's **sins** before dealing with his paralysis?
6. What did Jesus mean when He asked, "*For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?*"
7. Describe what it means to have your sins forgiven—provide examples of both the earthly and heavenly benefits of forgiveness.