

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-10 "FORGIVEN AND HEALED"

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LUKE 5:20-21 And seeing their faith, He said to him, Man, your sins are forgiven you.²¹ And the scribes and Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?

In this Lesson we will venture outside of the GOSPEL OF JOHN to an event recorded by MATTHEW, MARK, and LUKE.

As we return to our Course, "THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY," we will go back a few months in Jesus' ministry to a bold proclamation He made when healing a paralytic. This statement raised a great controversy with the Jewish Leaders. They had been troubled since the beginning of His ministry in the region of Galilee. The power He had displayed in healing the sick, casting out demons, and presenting himself using "Messianic" titles and passages were a constant concern. HOW could a man also be God?

This issue troubles our culture today, raising questions that challenge not only the "religious" thinking but also the lifestyle that is professed by the majority. Could the man, Jesus, really be the Son of God?

Of ALL the proclamations Jesus made about being the "GOD-MAN" this was one of the most troubling. And, it was made in His "headquarters" town of Capernaum, where the Jewish Leaders were already incensed that He had indirectly referred to being "THE MESSIAH". [LUKE 4:18-30]

[To gain the full account of this Narrative, we will present it in a "Harmony" of the "3" Gospels where it is recorded. Minor differences are found in this manner, which often are of great value.]

THE PARALYZED MAN FORGIVEN AND HEALED:

- 1) This is a very unique healing event. The narrative specifically attributes the "healing" of the man to the faith of the ones who brought him. And, JESUS clearly ties the healing of disease to the forgiveness of sin. YES, *healing is a result of the redemptive work of Christ's sacrificial death!* Healing, "Wholeness", is made available because of Jesus' suffering and death.
[ISA 53:4-5 / MATT 8:17 / 1 PETER 2:24]
- 2) [MT 9: 1 / Mk 2:1-2 / Lk 5:17] As JESUS was once again in the city of Capernaum, a crowd began to gather. There seemed to be a lot of commotion around the house where he was, indicating He had already been teaching, and probably healing people, although it is not mentioned.
Only LUKE gives the information that there were Jewish Leaders gathered from all the regions of Israel (Galilee, Judea, and even Jerusalem).
Already His ministry had made a significant impact on the people... which troubled the Leaders.
- 3) [MT 9: 1 / Mk 2:1-4 / Lk 5:18-19] We can only begin to understand the shock of the interruption of these men tearing off the tiles of the roof while Jesus was teaching below. What boldness!! What Confidence in JESUS!! No matter what they faced, they believed JESUS would heal their friend/relative. *Today, when we are feeling sick, we stay home instead of seeking those who will minister healing grace to us*. People need to be encouraged to bring those who are in need—we need to be ready to respond to their faith. They did not need to manifest the faith to "heal" him—all they needed was to "bring" him.
- 4) [MT 9: 2 / Mk 2:3-5 / Lk 5:18-20] My feeling is that the paralytic must have been somewhat in agreement with this activity, but JESUS comments that it was "their faith" that got his attention *(and the context is describing the activity of the friends, not the man)*.

This is what I like to call the **“mutual faith” principle**. The paralytic’s faith seemed to be limited in agreeing only to let these others take him. *Let’s use our faith to inspire others to just **“be open” to the healing power of God. If they come, they can be healed!***

5) [MT 9: 2 / Mk 2:5/ Lk 5:20] Jesus response to their faith was to pronounce the man **Forgiven—not healed—FORGIVEN!**

By all apparent evidence, this was the first time He had done this, and it was a great shock to the **“religious crowd”**.

By all accounts, it was the leaders who questioned His authority to do so. It seems that if they had not been present, **the people would have simply accepted this** as just another of the **“different”** things that He did. *The end of the Narrative confirms this...*

Many people are willing to accept the “power” offered through God’s grace—it is religious “restrictions” that often take away from their faith

- 6) [MT 9: 3-4 / Mk 2:6-8 / Lk 5:21-22] All 3 of the accounts record that the leaders considered Jesus’ words blasphemous. This must have been more than just inward reasoning, for Luke records they were **“saying”**.

The word used in MARK and LUKE for **“reasoning”** is **Dialogizomai – to ask and answer questions as a means of teaching, persuading, or arguing**. They were using this to turn the attention of the crowd away from JESUS as the healer/teacher, and make him to be an “evil-worker”.

Destroying Jesus’ reputation was already part of their plan. *I have yet to understand why some people don’t want others to be **healed / helped / delivered***.

*It makes no sense, and is certainly an outworking of the **“flesh-nature”**.*

*There are many **who remain resistant to the outpouring of GOD’s grace into the lives of those who are in need. Be Aware of them... but do not be intimidated by their unbelief.***

- 7) **Forgiveness—Healing**. One could go into a great thesis just on this point, but **“Let us settle this fact once and for all”**. **“Healing is part of the Atonement”** - it was not MEN’S nor A man’s idea ...
- 8) It was GOD’s Sovereign Decision to account Healing and Forgiveness of sins as **one and the same action**. Is healing in the atonement? **Yes!! Thank God for it!** (ISA 53:4-5 / MATT 8:17 / 1 PETER 2:24)
- 9) People can argue against **“Healing”**, based on experience after experience, or hypothetical arguments one upon another. It does not change what JESUS (LORD, SAVIOR, RIGHTEOUS ONE, AND VERY GOD) has recorded for us. And, **3 Gospels proclaim the very same words**—with accompanying arguments and protests of the religious crowd.
- 10) **This sickness...** is not to be seen ONLY as the result of some specific sin in the man’s life. If so, Jesus would have said, **“your sin is...”** Indicating some specific issue was the **cause** of this disease... and would have been followed by the admonition **“...and sin no more.”**
- BUT: Jesus used the plural form**, and then proclaimed that the **SON OF MAN (MESSIAH)** had power on earth to forgive **SINS** — making application to **the sins of mankind...** **ALL sin... EVERY sin...** **SON OF MAN (MESSIAH)** is used in all 3 Gospels... NOT **“God has...”**
- 11) **All sickness** is a result of **SIN—the fall of Adam and the resulting rebellion into which we were born**. **JESUS’ death on the Cross—the work of the MESSIAH—removed the curse of sin and makes available salvation and healing.**

- 12) **Sins are Forgiven...** – The form of this verb reveals the man **had ALREADY been forgiven** (by a sacrifice?), but that **he had not been able to accept / realize it**. The “*Perfect Passive Participle*” would be better translated, “...**are** *“having already been” forgiven*” – This man was **living under the bondage of guilt / shame**.
Further, the use of this specific verb tense – “...**are** *“having already been” forgiven*” – indicates that the man had “sought” forgiveness previously... Under the “Law” ... this **means that he would have made sacrifices at the Temple**.
- 13) **JESUS knew immediately** what the issue was behind this man’s inability to receive. **He knew this**, not because He was God, but **because He was “attuned” to the SPIRIT OF GOD, which was the source of His anointing**.
- 14) **Had JESUS spoken only to the need for healing**, the man might have continued under the guilt of his sins – and possibly **not been able to accept the healing**.
- 15) This is a “**worthiness**” issue. **After all we have done in our life** – the guilt of our own actions / the shame imposed by others (*real or imagined*), we can’t seem to bring ourselves to the place where we can say, **“Thank God, Yes, I AM forgiven!”**
It kept this man in a place of **“bondage to his bed”** – **paralyzed** – even **though all had been done to pay for the sin (and Healing)**
Prayers had been made / sacrifices were offered, but the reality of his personal failure was larger.
- Was he negatively influenced by family?**
 - Was his “doubt / rejection / unworthiness” imposed by judgment from society / friends?**
 - Did his sin and shame weigh so heavily on his mind that he could not forgive himself?**
 - We will never know!**
- 16) WHAT WE **DO** KNOW IS:... **He was “healed” when he realized his forgiveness!!**
1 JOHN 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
ROM 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things*
2 PETER 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence*
- 17) [MT 9: 4-6 / Mk 2:8-11 / Lk 5:20-25] **As to the question of “The power to forgive sin”** - Each of the **GOSPELS** uses the phrase, **“The Son of Man”** in Jesus’ reply. This was a proclamation that **Jesus, the man**, was also **Deity**. He had alluded to this before, but not so bluntly. Which is **“Easier to say?” FOR GOD... EITHER / BOTH; FOR MAN... NEITHER**
JESUS fits into the “GOD “ category... AS THE SON OF MAN, HE could say EITHER...
The power to heal is **ONLY** realized as a result of God’s forgiveness of Man’s SIN...
What **THIS** man needed to hear was, **“Your Sins are already having been forgiven...”**
- 18) [MT 9: 8 / Mk 2:12 / Lk 5:26] This was a **“marvelous / amazing”** thing that had taken place. **NOT ONLY** the incredible events of the **“healing”** **BUT ALSO** that **Jesus had proclaimed “forgiveness of sins” to this man.**

THE PARALYZED MAN FORGIVEN AND HEALED:

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| <p>MATTHEW 9:1 And He entered into a boat, and passed over, and came to His own city.</p> <p>² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed.</p> <p>And Jesus, <u>seeing their faith</u>, said to the paralytic, <u>Child [Teknon], be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven you.</u> [PerfPasPrt]</p> <p>³ And lo, some of the scribes said within themselves, This one blasphemers.</p> <p>⁴ And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, <u>Why do you think evil in your hearts?</u> ⁵ <u>For which is easier? To say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise and walk!</u> ⁶ <u>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,</u> then He said to the paralytic, <u>Arise, take up your bed and go to your house.</u></p> <p>⁷ And he arose and departed to his house. ⁸ But when the crowds saw, <u>they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.</u></p> | <p>MARK 2:1 And again He entered into Capernaum after some days. And it was heard that He was in a house. ² And immediately many were gathered, so that there was no longer any room, even to the door. And He proclaimed the Word to them. ³ <i>Then they came to Him, bringing one who was paralyzed, who was carried by four.</i> ⁴ When they could not come near to Him because of the crowd, they unroofed the roof where He was. And digging through, they let down the cot on which the paralytic was lying.</p> <p>⁵ And <u>seeing their faith</u>, Jesus said to the paralytic, <u>Child, [Teknon] your sins are forgiven to you .</u> [PerfPasPrt]. ⁶ But some of the scribes were <u>sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,</u> ⁷ <u>Why does this one speak such blasphemies? Who can forgive sins except God only?</u></p> <p>⁸ And instantly knowing in His spirit that they reasoned so within themselves, He said to them, <u>Why do you reason these things in your heart?</u> ⁹ <u>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven you; or to say, Arise, and take up your cot and walk?</u> ¹⁰ <u>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority upon earth to forgive sins,</u> He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ <u>I say to you, Arise, and take up your cot, and go to your house.</u> ¹² And immediately he arose and took up his cot and went out before all. <u>So that all were amazed and glorified God,</u> saying, <u>"We never saw it this way!"</u></p> | <p>LUKE 5:17 And it happened on one of the days He was teaching. <u>And Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting by, who had come out of every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem.</u> And the power of the Lord was there, for the curing of them. ¹⁸ <i>And behold, men carrying, on a cot, a man who was paralyzed.</i> And they sought to bring him in and to lay him before Him. ¹⁹ And not finding a way by which they might bring him in through the crowd, going up on the housetop, they let him down through the tiles with his cot into the midst, before Jesus.</p> <p>²⁰ And <u>seeing their faith</u>, He said to him, <u>Man [Anthropos], your sins are forgiven you.</u> [PerfPasPrt]</p> <p>²¹ And the scribes and Pharisees began to reason, saying, <u>Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?</u></p> <p>²² But knowing their thoughts, answering, Jesus said to them, <u>Why do you reason in your hearts?</u></p> <p>²³ <u>Which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven you; or to say, Rise up and walk?</u> ²⁴ <u>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ,</u> He said to the paralytic, <u>I say to you, Arise, and take up your cot and go to your house.</u></p> <p>²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and took up that on which he lay. And he departed to his own house, glorifying God. ²⁶ <u>And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We saw wonderful things today!"</u></p> |
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