

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-11 "MORE THAN HEALING"

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MATTHEW 9:6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, then He said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed and go to your house.

This Event recorded by MATTHEW, MARK, and LUKE is not found in JOHN'S GOSPEL.

To gain a full account of this Narrative, we will present it in a HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS (pg 4).

Minor differences are found in this manner, which often are of great value.

MATTHEW 9:1-8

MARK 2:1-12

LUKE 5:17-26

We are returning to the account of the **"Healing of the Paralyzed Man Who Was Let-Down Through the Roof."** Although this falls outside the **GOSPEL OF JOHN**, there are important points that we need to see in Jesus' proclamation that He WAS the **MESSIAH (SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN)**.

Our Series, **"THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY,"** is directed at a study of this proclamation. It is a message that the people of Jesus day needed to hear; that the people to whom John was writing needed to hear; And it is a vitally important message for the people of our present culture. **IS Jesus (the man) GOD.**

The power He had displayed in healing the sick, casting out demons, and presenting himself by using "Messianic" titles and passages, were a constant concern to the Jewish Leaders. The people, for the most part, welcomed and accepted both **Jesus' Works and His Words**. *The Leaders could not.*

HOW could a man also be God? This is a pattern that has been repeated through History: Denying His Works... leads to denying His Words... which leads to denying He is The Son of God / The Son of Man.

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**]

- 1) **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 ...
- 2) 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)
- 3) 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, all 3 Gospels **proclaim the very same words**—including the accompanying arguments and protests of the religious crowd.

LUKE 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said, **"Man, your sins are forgiven you."**²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, **"Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"** [Also: **MATT 9:2** / **MK2:5**]

- 4) **His Condition...** is **not to be seen simply as the result of some accident or disease that required healing.**

In some unrecorded measure "sins" were an issue related to the man being healed.

- a. Jesus was **NOT** referring to the “state” of all humanity as a result of Adam’s Fall.
If so, Jesus would have said, “**Sin is...**”
- b. Nor was it some “specific sin” which was the “contributing cause” of the man’s condition...
If so, Jesus would have said, “**your sin is...**” Indicating that some specific issue was the **cause** of this disease... *and would have been followed by the admonition “...and **sin no more.**”*
- 5) **BUT: Jesus used the plural form “sins”...** and then proclaimed that the **SON OF MAN (MESSIAH)** had power on earth to forgive **Sins** — making application to **any of the sins of mankind...** **ALL sin... EVERY sin... ANY sin...** “**HE had the power AS MESSIAH to FORGIVE sin...**”
- 6) Although “sin” was not the cause of the man’s paralysis, somehow his **current condition** was a RELATED to his “sin” ...
- 7) **All sickness** is a result of **SIN—the “Fall of Adam” and the resulting rebellion into which we were born brought the “curse” into the world... from which sickness / disease / etc are the result**
JESUS’ death on the Cross—the work of the MESSIAH—removed the curse of sin and made available Salvation AND Healing.
- 8) **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** reveals the underlying problem – “**...are having already been forgiven [in a past time with the result that the forgiveness still continues to the present and into the future]**”
ALL of that is necessary to fully express the impact of, “are forgiven”

THIS indicates that **the man had “sought” forgiveness previously... Under the “LAW”...**
This means that he would have made sacrifices at the Temple (no hint as to when)
 - Under THE LAW the people would bring their sacrifice to **“atone”** for their sin / sins
 - Although their sacrifice was **“accepted”** there was NO pronouncement of **“personal forgiveness”** – they had simply been obedient
 - **IF their hearts were right** in acknowledging that this sacrifice was a **“substitute for the promised Redeemer (THE MESSIAH)”** GOD considered them **“forgiven” THIS IS FAITH**
 - The **OT Priests** therefore **could not do this** because they had no knowledge of the condition of the person’s **heart / their faith ...**
 - The person’s **“faith”** was directed toward a future sacrifice... **“THE CROSS”**
- 9) **JESUS knew immediately** the issue behind this man’s condition.
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.
AND... As THE SON OF MAN, HE had the power NOT ONLY to heal... BUT ALSO to FORGIVE!
- 10) **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.**
- 11) **This was more than a matter of physical healing... It was 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), there are times we can't seem to bring ourselves to that place where we can say, **"Thank God, Yes, I AM forgiven!"**

This guilt / shame 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 / true repentance of the heart had been expressed to God for his sin...,

But the reality of his personal failure was greater and it kept him BOUND!

- a. Was he negatively influenced by family?
- b. Was his **"doubt / rejection / unworthiness"** imposed by judgment from society / friends?
- c. Did his sin and shame weigh so heavily on his mind that he could not forgive himself?
- d. **We will never know!**

12) WHAT WE DO KNOW IS... **He REALIZED he was "forgiven" and "healed"** through Jesus' direct and public proclamation – The man would know... but so also would all who would hear what Jesus had said

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*

13) [MT 9: 4-6 / Mk 2:8-11 / Lk 5:20-25] As to the question: **"The power to forgive sin..."** –

- a. Each of the Gospels records the Jewish Leaders as proclaiming Jesus' words as **"blasphemous"** ... *An assault upon the Holiness of God / To lie against God or a High Government Official / To deny their Position / To proclaim the right to speak AS them...*

14) 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.

15) **"Which is Easier to say?"** FOR GOD... EITHER / BOTH; FOR MAN... NEITHER

- a. JESUS fits into the **"GOD "** category... **AS THE SON OF MAN, HE could say EITHER...**
- b. The power to heal is ONLY realized as a result of **God's Forgiveness of Man's SIN...**
- c. What THIS man needed to hear was, **"Your Sins are already having been forgiven..."**

16) [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.**

- a. The people understood what that meant: **This was THE MESSIAH!**
- b. NO ONE had ever declared a person **"forgiven"** – only God could...
- c. BUT: **Jesus just did!**
- d. Their response was to **"glorify God..."** not marvel at a man who was **"bold enough to say this"**
- e. BUT for them to be **Amazed with Ecstatic Wonder...** **"THE MESSIAH is HERE!"**

THE PARALYZED MAN FORGIVEN AND HEALED:

MATTHEW 9:1 And He entered into a boat, and passed over, and came to His own city.

² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed.

And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, Child [Teknon], be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven you. [PerfPasPrt]

³ And lo, some of the scribes said within themselves, This one blasphemeth.

⁴ And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier? To say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise and walk! ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, then He said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed and go to your house.

⁷ And he arose and departed to his house. ⁸ But when the crowds saw, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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 *Then they came to Him, bringing one who was paralyzed, who was carried by four.* 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.

⁵ And seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, Child, [Teknon] your sins are forgiven to you. [PerfPasPrt]. ⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷ Why does this one speak such blasphemies? Who can forgive sins except God only?

⁸ And instantly knowing in His spirit that they reasoned so within themselves, He said to them, Why do you reason these things in your heart? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven you; or to say, Arise, and take up your cot and walk? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority upon earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ I say to you, Arise, and take up your cot, and go to your house. ¹² And immediately he arose and took up his cot and went out before all. So that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw it this way!"

LUKE 5:17 And it happened on one of the days He was teaching. And Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting by, who had come out of every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was there, for the curing of them. ¹⁸ *And behold, men carrying, on a cot, a man who was paralyzed.* 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.

²⁰ And seeing their faith, He said to him, Man [Anthropos], your sins are forgiven you. [PerfPasPrt]

²¹ And the scribes and Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?

²² But knowing their thoughts, answering, Jesus said to them, Why do you reason in your hearts?

²³ Which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven you; or to say, Rise up and walk? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, I say to you, Arise, and take up your cot and go to your house.

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 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We saw wonderful things today!"