

Matthew 9:1–8

The God-Man's Glory in Our Greatest Need

Saturday, June 1, 2024 • Read Matthew 9:1–8

Questions from the Scripture text: What does Jesus do in v1? To where does He come? Whom do they bring to Him (v2)? What did Jesus see? To whom does He speak? What does He initially command him to do? Upon what grounds? Who are there? Where do they speak (v3)? What do they say? What does Jesus know (v4)? What does He ask about themselves? What does He ask more generally (v5)? What does He say is going to be the reason for the next statement (v6)? What does He now command the paralytic to do? What does the paralytic do in v7? Who saw it (v8)? What do they do? Whom do they glorify? Thinking that God had done what?

What deliverance did Jesus come to give us? Matthew 9:1–8 prepares us for the morning sermon on the Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Jesus came to give us the deliverance of the forgiveness of sins.**

Jesus sees our faith, v1–2. Unlike Mark and Luke, Matthew doesn't tell us about the effort required to get the man to Jesus. He simply tells us that Jesus saw their faith. It is interesting that Jesus tells the paralytic to take courage from having his sins forgiven. Surely he can see that the man is paralyzed! But Jesus sees better than we see. We think that we need to be delivered from various burdens in this life. We might especially think so, if we were paralyzed. But Jesus sees something that we need more: forgiveness of our sins. Dear Christian, does not the Lord Jesus command us to take courage because our sins are forgiven through faith in Him. Take courage!

Jesus sees our wicked thoughts, v3–4. Jesus knew their thoughts. Mark tells us that He perceived their thoughts in His Spirit. How seriously we ought to take our thought life! This is one place that we are especially before our Lord Jesus. No other man can enter then. It is a secret room, where only we and the Lord Jesus are. When we question Him in our hearts, He is the Witness to our evil thoughts. How glad we ought to be that He has authority to forgive—that He Himself has purchased that forgiveness by His own cross, in the same compassion with which He looked upon the paralytic sinner.

Jesus wants us to know His authority to forgive, v5–8. The reader should already have concluded that Jesus is God, Who has authority to forgive. And this passage surely confirms that. But, we see something more in v6. We see that Jesus wants us *to know* that He has this authority. He even wanted these scribes to know. How great is the saving compassion of our Lord!

Ultimately, it is much more difficult to say "Your sins are forgiven you." It is less immediately falsifiable. But for our Savior, Who can say both, the forgiveness comes at the cost of going to the cross for us. But He did go to that cross. He did suffer the wrath of God in our place. He was displayed as a propitiation. And He does forgive sin as both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Him.

Even without drawing the full conclusion, that Jesus Himself is God in the flesh, the multitude glorified God. Is it possible that the forgiveness of sins has grown so commonplace with us that we no longer marvel or glorify God for it? May it never be!

What are you tempted to think of as your greatest need from the Lord Jesus? But what is it actually? For what situations do you need to take courage? How does the forgiveness of your sins give you that courage? What are some opportunities in your life especially to remember the forgiveness of your sins, and to marvel and glorify God for it? What use have you been making of those opportunities?

Sample prayer: Lord, we are so thankful to You for giving Your Son to become a Man who can forgive sins. Thank You for His love in which He both secured that forgiveness and desires us to know, and take courage from, that forgiveness. Grant that we would marvel and glorify You for this always, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51A "God, Be Merciful to Me" or TPH130A "LORD, from the Depths to You I Cry!"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 9 verses 1 through 8, these are God's words. So he got into a boat crossed over and came to his own City. 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.

Cheer, your sins are forgiven you. And it wants some of the scribes said within themselves. This man, blasphemes But Jesus knowing their thoughts said. Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say your sins are forgiven you. Or to say a rise and walk.

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. And he departed to his house. Now, when the multitudes saw it they marveled and glorified God.

Who had given such power to men. And in the sense this reading of God, Inspired. And

In this passage the Lord Jesus teaches us. About ourselves what our greatest need is. And about himself who he is. And what he has come to do.

He teaches us what our greatest need is forgiveness. What the Lord Jesus sees. When these men are bringing the paralytic, There's lying on his bed. And we know from The other gospels that Let him down through the roof, Etc. All of the effort. That goes into this. Matthew doesn't include all that.

He just tells us. What he sees when he sees men putting forth. The effort he sees there faith. And what he says to the paralytic. actually applies to all of them. Because, What he sees is that they're all believing, they're all hoping. In Christ. And so it says, when he sees their faith, He says, to the paralytic, son, be of good cheer.

Your sins are forgiven you. Now, why single out the paralytic? Well, because the paralytic seems to have the most pressing need of the bunch. But what he actually has, what is his most pressing need, Is the same as everyone else's most pressing need. They are not less needy than the paralytic because they are not paralyzed.

Because they are all needy of forgiveness of sins. And so, the Lord very carefully. And, The spirit carrying the evangelist carrying Matthew along. Very carefully shows us what our greatest need is. Whatever else. Needs. We have being a paralytic, is a real need. It makes you very needy if you're going to go here, Jesus, you actually need somebody to carry you to go hear Jesus.

So, it's not like he isn't needy. And you may have various needs in your life. But your greatest need. Is forgiveness from the Lord Jesus Christ. And therefore faith in him, which is the only instrument. Of forgiveness. The only way that you can be forgiven. Is through faith in Jesus Christ.

This is our greatest need. Jesus shows then about himself. That he is able to meet this need. But once some of the scribes say within themselves, this man, blasphemes But Jesus knowing their thoughts. Okay? So He sees the faith. Of the four men. or I don't know if it told us there were four, but the, the faith of the men who are who Brought the paralytic and the faith of the paralytic.

And you know what he saw was saving Faith. Not just oh, these men are really sincere in their actions. Because being sincere in your actions, it's not the instrument by which we get forgiven. so, you know, don't listen to those commentators or a preacher who says, oh, he was just observing that they were really sincere by By the effort

that they put forth.

No, he saw Saving faith in their hearts. Just like he saw in the hearts. Of these scribes these some scribes who say within themselves, this man blasphemes but Jesus knowing their thoughts. Said, why do you think evil in their heart in your hearts? No, it's true. That it is evil to think of Jesus as a slanderer.

But this is not the great evil that there is in their hearts. The great evil in their hearts, is that they did not think that Jesus is God. If Jesus isn't God, it would be blasphemy. For Jesus to say your sins are forgiven you And so, the great evil.

That these scribes were committing in their hearts. Was not thinking that Jesus is God. Was to not realize. By Jesus's words. That Jesus is God to listen to what Jesus says, and come up with some other interpretation. So here Jesus is telling us and in many passages throughout the Bible, he tells us That he is God who has come to save us to forgive us of our sins.

That's why he's named Jesus to fulfill the prophecy of Emmanuel. Like we heard earlier, in the book, he is God With Us. Emmanuel, and he's to be named Jesus. The angel told Joseph because he's going to save his people from their sins. And everywhere throughout the Bible, he keeps telling us this And the evil thing.

Would it be to hear him? Say such things and come up with other explanations. For what is being said, and what is being done? In this case, their explanation was he is blaspheming. Rather than receiving Jesus's own testimony. That he is God who has come to save us? There are two great evils.

That especially confined men to hell. As we hear in second Thessalonians chapter 1. They do not know God, they don't glorify God same. As we see in Romans chapter 1. Although God has displayed himself, they suppress the truth in unrighteousness. They neither glorify him as God or give him.

Thanks. And they obey not the gospel.

Not glorifying, God. All men are damned. So in second Thessalonians 1 says that it does not mean That if you hadn't heard the gospel, or if you hadn't had a chance to hear the gospel that somehow, There's some way for you to be forgiven of your sins. Um,

You know, weighing your good works or your sincerity or or just all you poor thing, you didn't have a chance. No, they're despisers of the glory of God and they'll burn in hell for that. But one second Thessalonians 1 puts Obey, not the gospel next to that, it's doing two things.

One That's reminding us that faith in Jesus Christ. As he has offered to us in the gospel is the only way to be forgiven for our original sin. And all of, for all of our actual sins, But it's also setting. Disbelieving in Jesus as God as he has offered to us in the gospel.

Next to disbelieving in God as God as he has declared to us in the creation. So that it is a great and evil thing. To hear Jesus Christ, proclaimed to us as God, who came to save us, And to come up with some other explanation. Rather than to worship him as God.

And to trust in him who came to save us. And to receive him as he's offered to us in the gospel. This is a great evil. In their hearts, do not let this be. Do not let this be a great evil in your heart. For the Lord, Jesus keeps coming to you.

As you read your Bible, as I teach you the Bible and family worship as we hear the preaching in the public worship and the Lord Jesus keeps coming to you and declaring himself to be your God who came to save you. Do not think evil in your heart but worship Him as your God.

And trust in him to save you. Sophia. As the Lord Jesus. Continuously comes to you. And these family worship times and in the public worship times. And as you start to read your Bible, whenever you read your Bible, And he declares himself to you as God who came to save you Do not do evil in your heart, but worship Him as God.

And trust in him. That he saves you. That's not what the scribes did. They came up with another explanation for what was happening. When Jesus said this. It says, Jesus knowing their thoughts said. Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say your sins are forgiven you.

Or to say a rise and walk. Now, this this question has differing answers, depending on what you mean by which is easier to say Which is more immediately falsifiable. Saying your sins are forgiven you, or saying? Horizon walk. Well more immediately, falsifiable As to say, a rise and walk.

And because in order to falsify to Prove that it wasn't true that his sins are forgiven him. You'd have to wait all the way to the judgment to see if that was the case. And so, as far as immediately falsifiable based on present evidence, it's easier to say your sins are forgiven you.

But the whole point of Disbelieving. That Jesus is God. Is that the more difficult thing to say is that your sins are forgiven you, God Alone. Can forgive sin because sin is against God. And God Alone. He is the one in whom all righteousness is And so, you transgress and you commit offenses against other ones, but sins sinfulness is not because it's against us.

We're against one another. Sins sinfulness is because it is against God. And so the more difficult thing is actually to say, your sins are forgiven you God himself would have had to become a man. For Jesus, the man to rightfully say your sins are forgiven you. And so, the cost is The Incarnation.

But the cost or the difficulty is more than just the Incarnation.

It's also the crucifixion. Not just his death. But his suffering, the wrath of God on the cross. For our sins. This is the cost. It's more than they could have imagined. Even God would not say. Your sins are forgiven you, without The cross. Otherwise, he could not be both just and the justifier.

Of the one who has faith in Jesus Christ. So, these scribes did not have too high of you. Of how difficult it is. To say your sins are forgiving you. These scribes had too low of you. Didn't realize that God had to become a man. In order for our sins to be forgiven.

And they didn't realize. That God had to become a man in order to suffer his own wrath in our place. For our sins to be forgiven. So when Jesus asks, Which is easier to say. The real answer, the great answer. Is that arise? Take up your bed and go to your house.

There's a much easier thing to say, But notice. In verse 6. He shows us that he has done this. 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.

Now, he confronted the scribes with this knowledge. They were not yet Believers, we do not know if they believed And we're going to think about the scribe's response. We're going to think about the multitudes response. But we already know here. The paralytics response he had already believed. He is already forgiven.

Would you see what a mercy? It is to Jesus. That He healed him of his legs, not because He could use his legs for a few decades. Between when he was forgiven and when his legs would be even less functional than before, But because Jesus assured him in his faith.

Because Jesus. Confirmed to him. Who Jesus is? And that when he said your sins are forgiven you, His sins had really been forgiven him. The intention is that, that paralytic carrying his Matt home. Is not rejoicing that he can walk. So much, as of course, it's rejoicing that he can walk.

It'd be ungrateful if he didn't. But that his greater Joy as he takes up his mat and goes home isn't That he's walking. But that he's forgiven. So that whatever troubles you have in your life. If you have believed, in Jesus Christ who has shown to you that your greatest need is forgiveness.

But has also shown to you that. What he came to do because he is God. Who came to for the Forgiveness of our sins? So, whatever else you have is happening in your life. You have your greatest need met in your God, who gave himself for you. And you can Rejoice.

Now we don't know how the scribes responded.

We pray for all who hear the gospel. That they would not be hard-hearted. But that when Jesus over and over again, Breaks down all objections. And shows that they're illegitimate. That men would be brought to repentance. That men would be humbled. And stop resisting the Lord Jesus Christ. That the Holy Spirit would give them Grace and Life by that Grace and Faith by that life.

So that they might believe. And the Lord Jesus Christ. And that we might worship him for the right reasons. So how will we respond? That's the big question here. When the multitude saw it, they marveled and glorified God. Who had given such power to men. They didn't realize that Jesus is not just a man.

He's the son of man. He is that eschatological judge. Who is? Coming in glory in the clouds. Daniel describes. And, He is going to judge all for their sins but that he has come first For the Forgiveness of sins. He has come ahead of the time as it were, you remember his answer to the demons?

So they said, why have you come here? Is it to torment us before the time? No, he came here. In order that men who would be damned with demons? If they did not have his atonement could be forgiven of sins. So that when the son of man, for when, when this ultimate eschatological judge does appear, There will be multitudes, who have been forgiven?

Because he is not only Manny is also God. By the multitudes. Marvel and glorify God who had given such power to men and they may be happy. That there's a man who can forgive and they may be happy. They're certainly happy. That there's a man who can heal paralytics.

But what seems to be missing from the general response. Is that Jesus is God. They ought to have glorified Jesus. I marveled at Jesus and Glorified him as God who had come as a man. In order to forgive. And to heal and this is how we need to respond to the Lord Jesus.

Not just to be amazed at the things that he can do. in our lives. Praise God. that he can do those things. But to worship him as our God, And to trust in him. For the Forgiveness of our sins. Won't spray.

Our gracious. God in our heavenly father, we pray that you help. To respond rightly to Christ, help us to see. Our greatest need as the Forgiveness of our sins. Oh, we are so needy and we cry out to you. Now, and we cry out to you continuously for so many needs.

But these often hide from our vision. Because of our foolishness. Oh Lord. These other needs often hide from our vision, that our greatest need Is forgiveness from you reconciliation with you. So, thank you for telling us that help us to keep in mind. And to help us to. See about Christ that he has God, who has come to meet that need And give us to Rejoice.

To Rejoice over all of the good that you do for us. But especially to live our lives rejoicing that we have been forgiven of our sins. And that we have Christ. Who is our God? Who came to save us, help us to Marvel at him. And to worship him for this.

And for, The other glories of his person. And of his work. Before we ask it in his name, amen.