

Lunch Time Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "He Heals"  
Matthew 9:1-8

June 26, 2018

"And behold, some people brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said the paralytic, 'Take heart My son; your sins are forgiven.'" (Matthew 9:2)

**I. Friends Call For Healing (vv.1-4)**

- a. Jesus "own city" (v.1) is Capernaum. In *Matthew* Jesus is associated with four cities: Bethlehem, city of His birth; Nazareth, city of His growth; Capernaum, city of His mission; and Jerusalem, city of His death and resurrection.
- b. Mark 2:1-11, gives colorful detail to this story. If we only had *Matthew* we would not know:
  1. That four friends brought the disabled man to Jesus.
  2. The men removed a portion of the roof and lowered their friend down in the presence of Jesus.
- c. Collectively, *Matthew* and *Mark* tell us that God will move as we act with great effort to get into his presence. *Jesus saw (knew) faith and faith will move God.*
- d. It is interesting the faith that Jesus sees is "the faith of the men." The incapacitated, insane, unwitting, and the lost need people praying for them too.
- e. Our faith in Christ to heal the sicknesses of others does count. (faith that moves "mountains")
- f. This does not mean that the paralytic man did not have faith, but Jesus acknowledged the extreme measures the men took bringing their friend in the presence of Jesus.
- g. Was the man's sickness the result of sin? We do not know. (John 9:1-3)

**II. The Issue of Sin Forgiveness (vv.5-8)**

- a. Sin offends God, because it goes against His holy standard of righteousness for our lives.
- b. How often do people come asking God to fix something without first desiring His righteousness?
- c. Jews believed that all suffering was a result of personal sin, and that nobody could be cured until he or she was forgiven.
- d. Jesus' authority to cure the disabled man is evidence that He has the authority also to forgive sins.
- e. Jesus does not say, "I forgive your sins", but "your sins are forgiven" (Galilean legal opposition)
- f. Remember that Jesus came to be the *Mediator* between God and man. Jesus puts man right with God on the basis of faith.
- g. Jesus conducts "word" surgery. A word of forgiveness has healing power even in our relationships.
- h. The healing of diseases is never an end in itself but a proof that Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins.
- i. The person who has been offended also has the authority and the responsibility to forgive.

**III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. Today, the way we "carry" our friends, family and co-workers to Jesus is by praying for them. Do you know someone that needs to be taken to Jesus?
- b. Forgiveness of sins is the rallying cry for Christianity, because forgiving is empowering.
- c. Too often our church communities believe the message of forgiveness is for unbelievers and fail to apply it their own personal relationships with members. Why do we struggle to forgive a Christian sister or brother who we claim as family?
- d. Jesus' primary mission was to forgive sins. Should not the church be the example of this in personal practice?