

And the Lamé Shall Walk!

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Forgiveness / Matthew 9:1–8

In Matthew 9:1-8, Matthew provides the third of three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation. Matthew offers proof of His Authority to Forgive Your Sin

Pre-sermon Comments

2 Timothy 3:16 LSB

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 4:1–2 LSB

¹ I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching.

Ephesians 4:12 LSB

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Colossians 1:28 LSB

²⁸ Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Introduction to our Text

Ephesians 1:7–8 LSB

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and insight,

Colossians 2:13–14 LSB

¹³ And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions.

Colossians 2:13–14 LSB

¹⁴ Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

When we sin, we put ourselves into debt to God; we incur an obligation; we come to owe Him something. Thus, when we ask for His forgiveness, we are asking that He forgive our debt. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Section Proposition and Outline

In Matthew 8:23-9:8, Matthew provides three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation. Matthew offers proof of:

- His Authority Over the Physical World
- His Authority Over the Spiritual Realm
- His Authority to Forgive Your Sin

Review

Matthew 8:16 LSB

¹⁶ Now when evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill

Matthew 8:27 LSB

²⁷ And the men marveled, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Discussion Questions

How should Christ's authority over all things give us confidence in our daily struggles, temptations, and service to Him?

Sermon Text

Matthew 9:1–8 LSB

¹ And getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over *the sea* and came to His own city. ² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.” ³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes.” ⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵ “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up 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, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” ⁷ And he got up and went home. ⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were afraid, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Sermon Proposition and Outline

In Matthew 9:1-8, Matthew provides the third of three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation. Matthew offers proof of:

- **His Authority to Forgive Your Sin**
 - **The Friends Display Faith (Matt 9:1-2)**
 - **The Lord Gives Forgiveness (Matthew 9:2)**
 - **The Scribes Make a Fuss (Matthew 9:3)**
 - **The Lord Formulates a Reply (Matt 9:4-5)**
 - **The Lord Facilitates a Healing (Matt 9:6-7)**
 - **The Lord Frightens the People (Matt 9:8)**

The Friends Display Faith (Matt 9:1-2)

A Paralytic Comes to Jesus for Healing

Matthew 9:1 LSB

¹ And getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over *the sea* and came to His own city.

Matthew 9:2 LSB

² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:1 LSB

¹ And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home.

The Friends Tear Up the Place!

Mark 2:2–4 LSB

² And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. ⁴ And being unable to bring *him* to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof *over* where He was; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the mat where the paralytic was lying.

Matthew 9:2 LSB

² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Faith in Action

Ephesians 2:8–9 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast.

Matthew 8:10 LSB

¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

Matthew 9:20–22 LSB

²⁰ And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment; ²¹ for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I will be saved *from this*.” ²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has saved you.” At once the woman was saved *from her hemorrhage*.

James 2:17 LSB

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead by itself.

The Lord Gives Forgiveness (Matthew 9:2)

The Paralytic Gets More Than He Was

Asking

Matthew 9:2 LSB

² And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

Job’s Example

Job 38:4 NASB95

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

Job 40:3–4 LSB

³ Then Job answered Yahweh and said, ⁴ “Behold, I am insignificant; what can I respond to You? I place my hand over my mouth.

Job 42:5–6 LSB

⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; ⁶ Therefore I reject *myself*, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Jesus Pronounces Forgiveness

Puritan Thomas Fuller once said, "He that falls into sin is a man; [he] that grieves at it, is a saint; [he] that boasteth of it, is a devil.

Two centuries later, English pastor William Marsh agreed, adding, "Only one thing more, He that forgives it is God."

Discussion Questions

The paralytic's friends were willing to go to extreme measures—digging through a roof—to get their friend to Jesus. What does this teach us about the nature of true faith?

How do we balance Paul's teaching that salvation is "by grace through faith... not of works" (Eph 2:8–9) with James's teaching that "faith without works is dead" (Jas 2:17)?

The paralytic came for physical healing, but Jesus first addressed his greater need: forgiveness of sins. What does this reveal about Christ's priorities for us?

In what ways do people today still believe that suffering is always the result of personal sin? How can Job's story help correct that misunderstanding?

How do Job's experiences remind us that God's purposes in suffering may be hidden from us, yet still for our good and for His glory?

When have you faced suffering that seemed unexplainable? Looking back, how did God use it to grow your faith or reveal His character?

Pastor Brandon quoted William Marsh: “Only one thing more, He that forgives it is God.” Why is Jesus’ pronouncement of forgiveness in Matthew 9:2 such a radical claim?

How does Jesus’ authority to forgive sins strengthen your confidence in Him as Savior and Lord?

What encouragement does this passage give you in sharing the gospel with those who may be seeking earthly solutions but need Christ’s ultimate gift of forgiveness?

The Scribes Make a Fuss (Matthew 9:3)

Matthew 9:3 LSB

³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes.”

Jesus Knew Their Accusations

John 2:24–25 LSB

²⁴ But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, ²⁵ and because He had no need that anyone bear witness concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Luke 7:38 LSB

³⁸ And standing behind *Him* at His feet, crying, she began to wet His feet with her tears. And she kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

Luke 7:39 LSB

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee, who had invited Him, saw this, he said to himself, saying, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

Luke 7:40 LSB

⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.”

Matthew 12:25 LSB

²⁵ And knowing their thoughts He said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

The Scribes Accuse Jesus of Blasphemy

Matthew 9:3 LSB

³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man blasphemes.”

The Lord Formulates a Reply (Matt 9:4-5)

Matthew 9:4 LSB

⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”

Jesus Knows Man’s Thoughts

1 Samuel 16:7 LSB

⁷ But Yahweh said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart.”

1 Kings 8:39 LSB

³⁹ then listen in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and give to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,

Which is Easier?

Matthew 9:5 LSB

⁵ “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

Ephesians 1:7 LSB

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace

Regardless of the man’s physical condition, his greatest need by far was forgiveness of sin. Forgiveness was a far greater work, for it cost Christ his very life. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

Matthew 9:5 LSB

⁵ “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

The Lord Facilitates a Healing (Matt 9:6-7)

Matthew 9:6 LSB

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, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

The Son of Man

Daniel 7:13 LSB

¹³ “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And came near before Him.

Daniel 7:14 LSB

¹⁴ “And to Him was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and *men of every* tongue Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not be taken away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Matthew 9:6 LSB

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, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

Matthew 9:7 LSB

⁷ And he got up and went home.

The Lord Frightens the People (Matt 9:8)

Matthew 9:8 LSB

⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were afraid, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 9:8 NASB95

⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 9:8 NKJV

⁸ Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Matthew 9:8 HCSB

⁸ When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck and gave glory to God who had given such authority to men.

By translating this term as “afraid” in this passage, readers can recognize how such fear often occurs in situations where people are confronted with the power of God (cf. Matt 14:26; 17:6; 27:54; 28:8). ~ LBS Translation Notes

Matthew 14:26 LSB

²⁶ Now when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.

Matthew 17:6 LSB

⁶ And when the disciples heard *this*, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

Matthew 27:54 LSB

⁵⁴ Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was God’s Son!”

Matthew 28:8 LSB

⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

Matthew 9:8 LSB

⁸ But when the crowds saw *this*, they were afraid, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Conclusion:

“I am no more terrified at death, nor afraid of hell, because of sin, than if I never had sin; for all my sins are freely pardoned and washed away, through the precious blood and intercession of Jesus Christ” ~ Donald Cargill

Romans 3:23 LSB

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Discussion Questions

The scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy in their thoughts, not their words. What does this reveal about the danger of

hidden unbelief or silent opposition to God?

How does the truth that Jesus knows our thoughts and the condition of our hearts (1 Sam 16:7; 1 Kgs 8:39) challenge or encourage you personally?

When have you found yourself murmuring internally (or in private) against God or others? What does repentance look like in those moments?

Jesus asked, “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’” Why is forgiveness of sin the greater work, even beyond physical healing?

How does the healing of the paralytic confirm Jesus’ divine authority? Why was this proof so important in the face of the scribes’ accusations?

Kent Hughes noted that forgiveness “cost Christ his very life.” How does remembering the cost of our forgiveness deepen our gratitude and worship?

The crowd responded with fear and awe, recognizing God’s authority at work through Jesus. How does a healthy, reverent fear of God shape the Christian life?

Can you recall a time when you were overwhelmed with awe at God’s power, holiness, or grace? How did that experience change you?

The scribes saw Jesus' authority as a threat, while the crowd glorified God. How can we guard our hearts from responding to Jesus with skepticism instead of submission?

Donald Cargill declared before his execution, "I am no more terrified at death, nor afraid of hell, because of sin, than if I never had sin; for all my sins are freely pardoned." How does the assurance of Christ's forgiveness shape the way you view suffering, fear, or even death?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

Gen 1:1—In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth

Psalms 24:1—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

Is Perfectly Holy

1 John 1:5—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Matt 5:48—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

James 2:10—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Man

Has broken God's law

Rom 3:10,23—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

Rom. 6:23—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Cannot save himself by his good works

Titus 3:5—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

Col 2:9—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

Rom 5:8—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

2 Cor 5:21—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

1 Cor 15:4—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

Isa 55:7—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Luke 9:23—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

Rom 10:9—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

Acts 17:30—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Additional Quotes

Miracles in the angelic realm and miracles in the physical realm to me pale compared to miracles in the moral realm.

~ **John F. MacArthur**

The most marvelous ingredient in the forgiveness of God is that he also forgets, the one thing a human being can

never do. Forgetting with God is a divine attribute; God's forgiveness forgets. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

The voice of sin may be loud, but the voice of forgiveness is louder. ~ **Dwight Lyman Moody (Evangelist)**

Christ's Passion is the true and proper cause of forgiveness of sins. ~ **Saint Thomas Aquinas**

We are certain that there is forgiveness, because there is a gospel, and the very essence of the gospel lies in the proclamation of the pardon of sin. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

God is the consummate forgiver. And we depend every day on His ongoing forgiveness for our sins. The least we can do is emulate His forgiveness in our dealings with one another. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Forgiveness is to be set loose from sins. ~ **George Campbell Morgan (British Preacher)**

Wherever there is a real forgiveness of sin, there will be real sorrow on account of it. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Since man's severest problem is sin, his greatest need is forgiveness—and that is exactly what God provides. Though we have been forgiven the ultimate penalty of sin through salvation in Christ, we need to experience God's

regular forgiveness for the sins we continue to commit. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Christ's ministers may all go home, for their office is useless, if there is no forgiveness of sins! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Forgiveness, therefore, has an immediate reference to sin, and, in this respect, to nothing else. It is our *unrighteousness* to which the pardoning God is *merciful*: It is our *iniquity* which he “remembereth no more.” ~ **John Wesley (Founder of the Methodist Movement)**

The proper Christian attitude to sin is not to deny it but to admit it, and then to receive the forgiveness which God has made possible and promises to us. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

It is God's free, sovereign, undeserved favour or love to man, in his state of sin and guilt, which manifests itself in the forgiveness of sin and deliverance from its penalty. ~ **Louis Berkhof (American Calvinist Theologian)**

Justification means not only the forgiveness of our sins, but also that our sins have been dealt with and have been removed from us. Justification states that God regards us as righteous, as if we had not sinned. In other words, it is a stronger term than forgiveness; we may be forgiven and yet our sins remain upon us. But what God does for us in

justification is to remove the guilt altogether, to remove the sin. It is not only that He does not punish us for it, but that He looks upon us as righteous, as if we had not sinned; that sin has been removed. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Forgiveness, which is so easy for us to accept, cost the agony of Calvary. It is possible to take the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and our sanctification with the simplicity of faith, and to forget at what enormous cost to God it was all made ours. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

Now, both repentance and forgiveness of sins—that is, newness of life and free reconciliation—are conferred on us by Christ, and both are attained by us through faith. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Redemption means being freed from sin's power, so that it no longer rules over us. Forgiveness means having God wipe the slate clean. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

The teaching of forgiveness without any turning from sin is a great error and it has filled the churches with deceived members and helped to fill hell with deceived souls. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God. ~ **Wayne**

Grudem

Forgiveness does not imply license to sin. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

The forgiveness of our sins is the greatest benefit any of us can ever receive from God, and we can receive it only because God gave his Son over to death on the cross to procure it for us. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

Grace involves unmerited, undeserved, and permanent forgiveness. Grace can operate only where there is sin. Without need of forgiveness there is no need of grace. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Those who are most conscious of forgiveness are invariably those who have been most acutely convicted of their sin. ~ **Sinclair Buchanan Ferguson**

Forgiveness is not an occasional art, it is a permanent attitude. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

Because of His justice, no sin will ever go unpunished; yet because of His grace, no sin is beyond forgiveness. ~ **John F. MacArthur**