**Jesus’ Power To Forgive Sins**

Matthew 9:1-8

June1, 2025

**Introduction**

There are many different types of power in the world…

Political power – ability to influence or direct actions

Political power – President Trump order Tarriffs

Electric power – wind, solar, hydro, fossil fuel, nuclear can all be the fuel for

Electric power – 1000Mwe nuclear power plant, 1 million homes

Military power – ground, air and most important sea!!!

Military power – Israel removing Hamas from Gaza strip

Computing power – measured in floating point operations per second [FLOPS]

1945 ENIAC 18 instructions/sec 2017 NVIDIA RTX 1.5 trillion

Computing power – makes AI possible

Jesus Christ has shown His power a few times so far in Matthew

In Mt 8:1-4 power of Jesus touch and words over disease of the leper

In Mt8:5-13 power in Jesus words over sickness of the Centurions servant

In Mt 8:23-27 power of Jesus over nature’s storm on the Sea of Galilee

In Mt 8:28-34 power of Jesus over legion of demons

Today in Matthew 9:1-8 look at Jesus power to forgive sins. power = authority

Two main Greek words translated into English as power

Δυναμις - ability, power like Acts1:8 εξουσια – authority, power like Ro13:1 and Mt9:1-9

**Parallel Accounts**

Mathew 9:1-8 156 words

Mark 2:1-12 267 words

Luke 5:17-20 270 words

Matthew zeroes in on Jesus’ power to forgive sins

Mark and Luke include Jesus’ power to forgive sins but also include

1. details of how the paralytic came to Jesus

2. thinking of the scribes

3. details of the paralytic healing and crowd response

**1st Jesus’ Power to Forgive Sins Comes In Response to Faith 1-2**

A. Capernaum 1

Return after trip to the Decapolis

Capernaum – home city for His Galilean ministry

B. Paralytic 2a

They brought Him a paralytic lying on a bed

Some friends

Paralyzed

Mark and Luke tell us of the crowd of people around Jesus’ house

The men carried paralytic to roof, dug hole, let him down

C. Jesus’ sees faith 2b

Jesus sees their faith, compare with Mt 85-13 where JS commends faith then heals

Faith – Jesus knows what obstacles they had to overcome to get to Him…

Men and the paralytic have believed Jesus could heal Jesus says …

Son, be of good cheer, encourage

your sins are forgiven you, or, your sins are forgiven

likely that the paralysis thot2B because of sin, see J91-3 Job47 Mt817/Is534

forgiven – drive away, send away Ps103:12

sins forgiven in v2, 5, 6; 4X’s each in Mark and Luke

greatest miracle Jesus performed Jer31:34, Dn9:24

Note JS knows the man is paralyzed, but JS sees forgiveness of sin as priority

Lk1:77, 3:3

We can only guess how having his sins forgiven made the man feel

Lesson – Wesley hymn And Can It Be – forgiven of sin must have felt free, innocent

Lesson – only Jesus has the authority to make such a statement, He has the power

**2nd Jesus’ Power to Forgive Sins Criticized by Critics 3**

A. Scribes

Religious academics, scholars, experts in the law

Have come to see Jesus, part of the crowd

B. think

Think – they don’t say it, just in their hearts, think to themselves

This Man blasphemes – first opposition in Matthew of religious leadership

Blasphemy – insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God

Mark and Luke explain – Mk2:7 Lk5:21 who can forgive sins but God alone?

Lk7:47-49

Lesson - We can forgive each other of sins against us Mt18:21

But only God can forgive us of all sins.

Lesson – be careful of developing a critical spirit, criticizing in your heart

**3rd Jesus’ Power to Forgive Sins Is Greater Than Power To Heal a Paralytic 4-8**

A. Jesus knows what we think in our hearts

Knowing their thoughts

Why do you think evil in your hearts? Evil of unbelief and rejection of Jesus

B. Easy to say

Which is easier to say: Your sins are forgiven or rise up and walk?

Jesus is thinking of the power it takes to accomplish either

I can imagine the power necessary to heal a paralytic,

Map of every molecule, DNA blueprint, machine to rearrange

I cannot imagine the power needed to forgive sins, God only has such

I could say: Your sins are forgiven – but my saying not make it true would it?

How would you know if your sins are forgiven?

If I said: arise take up your bed and go home – you would know if I had power

C. You may know 6

This is for the benefit of the scribes – critics

Son of Man – Messianic Title, Dn713-14 JS used freq. Mt128 1613,28 1811 2028 2444

Has power on earth to forgive sins – Jesus has and uses that power here

JS commission to the apostles in J2023 is apostolic proclamation of gospel

The proclamation of the forgiveness of sins is faith in JS Ac23853110431338

To the paralytic Jesus says take up your bed and go home

He arose and went home

D. multitudes response

Marveled/feared-reverential awe and glorified God who had given such

power/authority to men

I think they are marveling at paralytic healing not at the forgiveness of sins

Lesson – Forgiven, how much has God forgiven you? His power.

You should marvel at God forgiving you of your sin

Paul Ro724 wretched man that I am who will set me free from this body of death

I thank God through Jesus Christ…8:1 no condemnation in Christ

Lord’s table – Mt26:28 My blood for the forgiveness of sins 1J1:9

E1:7 through His blood the forgiveness of our wrong

Hb 10:18 where there is forgiveness there is no longer an offering