

# Sermon Study

Your Sins Are Forgiven  
Matthew 9:1-8

## MIRACLE KINGDOM

### vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.

### AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

In Matthew 9:1-8, instead of immediately healing the paralyzed man, Jesus says, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven". While the religious leaders questioned his authority to forgive sins, Jesus showed his authority over sin by also causing him to walk. It is critical to always remember that Jesus has authority to take away our sins, enabling us to walk away from the lameness of our past and into the new life he has for us.

### Gather (your group getting to know each other)

We use the word "awesome" a great deal in our culture—but what really causes you to "be filled with awe"? How awesome is it that our God would overcome sin and death for us so we could eternally be with him—now and always?

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

Consider how your group might declare Jesus as Messiah – son of the living God – the only one able to forgive sins – in a public way this month.

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 91:-8

**Discussion**

1. Pray for God to reveal Himself through His Word.

2. Read Matthew 9:1-8 out loud:

“Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?” Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” SO he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God who had given such authority to man.

3. What does this text say about the character of God? Jesus confronts a powerful paradigm in this encounter. While instantaneous physical healing is a miracle, perhaps the religious leaders could accept that God would work through a human – a prophet – to bring physical healing. But Jesus declares that that he has the authority and power to forgive sins. He proclaims his divinity.

4. Why do they react in fear (with evil in their hearts)?

5. Jesus is not saying the man sinned and therefore his sin caused him to be paralyzed. But all brokenness in our world is the result of sin. Spend some good time discussing your reactions to those statements and understanding what healing really means. What is the difference between “Your sins are forgiven” and “Get up and walk.”

6. What is the MOST important healing you have/will ever receive?

7. Jesus is willing and able to free us from the lameness of our past into a new life he has for us.

- Do you really, really believe he is able to do that?
- Have you accepted that gift?
- Are you living in freedom from your past sins, our returning to your mat of suffering?
- Are you continually walking forward into your new life in Christ? If not, where are you stuck?
- What lies do you hear that cause you to waiver?
- Pray with/for one another

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

Ask Jesus to bring to mind the faces and names of those needing a resurrection from sin. Consider/commit to invite those people to church for Resurrection Sunday services. Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for His unwavering commitment to accomplish His mission on Earth.