

DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31

VICTORY Easter Series 2024

March 17, 2024

Matthew 9:1 – 8

The Authority to Forgive Sins

Main Idea:

Jesus is eternal God the Son who became flesh (John 1:14). In the gospel record His true divine identity is authenticated through the powerful miracles He performed, and through His authority to forgive sins.

Outline:

Four key words to help us understand the occasion on which Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins before healing him physically.

1) Faith

2) Forgiveness

3) Fury

4) Fear

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 When we say that God is omniscient, we mean that His knowledge is infinite - He knows all things, actual and possible, past, present and future. This reality is stated simply in 1 John 3:20, which says that "God ... knows all things." Is it possible for us to hide our thoughts from God? Is it disquieting to think that He knows our hearts perfectly? What are some other implications of God's omniscience?

How is the knowledge of God's infinite knowledge a blessing for us as His people?
See Psalm 139 1-18 for ideas.

#2 In the message, authentic faith was described as "belief that is so entirely certain that it takes action." Can you think of any Scripture passages that agree with this statement?

#3 How would you explain God's forgiveness to an unbeliever?

What is the significance of the word picture in today's message of His "sending our sins away" when He forgives us?

#4 What is the relationship of forgiveness to salvation?

#5 What is the ultimate statement that Jesus makes about His identity in this passage?

Select helpful resources:

Carson, D.A. *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978.

MacArthur, John F. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Matthew 8-15*. Chicago: Moody, 1987.

Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Turner, David L. *Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.