A Question of Authority

Matthew 9:1–8

1 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. 2
And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed.
And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart,
my son; your sins are forgiven.” 3 And behold, some of the scribes
said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” 4 But Jesus, knowing
their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which
is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? 6
But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to
forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed
and go home.” 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw
it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such
authority to men.

Matthew 9:1–8

ESV

Christ’s Authority to forgive is demonstrated by His power to heal.

Christ’s Intuition, Authority, and Obedience overcomes the brokenness of sick and sinful people and turns them into Instruments of God.

Who are we? (v. 2, 7)

- The sick person
- The sinner in need of forgiveness
- The instruments of God’s mission
  - Illustration: God gets glory through his work on us.
  - Invitation: People hear about God through our testimony.

Who is Christ? (vv. 4-6)

- Intuitive (knowledge): The understanding of our deepest needs
- Authoritative (power): The ability to fill our deepest needs
- Obedient (will): The desire to heal you

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 ESV

Who is God the Father? (v. 8)

- The giver of authority
- The receiver of glory

Application

- Recognize that a person's greatest need is a right relationship with God.

  How do I miss this?

- If you believe Christ can forgive sins, you must believe that Christ can heal any other thing.

  What has Christ commanded me to walk away from?

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await
a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform
our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power
that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Philippians 3:20–21 ESV