

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

December 28, 2025 – Miracle Moments: Power to Forgive and Heal

Main Passage: Matthew 9:1-8

Main Idea:

Jesus proves His divine authority by doing what only God can do—forgiving sin—and validating that authority through undeniable healing.

Sermon Overview

- Jesus returns to Capernaum, His ministry headquarters
- Religious leaders gather to investigate His messianic claims
- A paralyzed man is brought to Jesus by faithful friends
- Jesus forgives sin before healing the body
- Healing confirms Christ's divine authority
- The crowd is amazed, but many miss the greater miracle

1. The Purpose of the Miracle

- Miracles are **authentication**, not mere compassion
- Every miracle points to Jesus' **identity as Messiah**
- The ultimate purpose: belief that leads to life

John 20:30–31

2. Jesus Returns Under Investigation (*Matthew 9:1*)

- Capernaum becomes the center of scrutiny
- Pharisees and scribes arrive from across Israel
- False messiahs were common; this claim must be tested

Luke 5:17

3. Faith That Overcomes Barriers (*Matthew 9:2*)

- Friends carry the paralytic to Jesus
- Physical obstacles mirror spiritual obstacles
- Faith acts, persists, and works together
- False religion blocks access; faith finds a way

Luke 5:18-19

4. Forgiveness Comes Before Healing (*Matthew 9:2*)

- Jesus addresses the **eternal condition first**
- Forgiveness is granted by **faith alone**
- No rituals, no works, no law-keeping required
- Physical healing without spiritual forgiveness is temporary

5. The Charge of Blasphemy (*Matthew 9:3*)

- Scribes correctly believe only God can forgive sin
- They fail to recognize Jesus' divine nature
- Legalism protects power, not people

6. Jesus Reveals His Authority (*Matthew 9:4-6*)

- Jesus knows their thoughts — divine omniscience
- Uses rabbinical logic: harder proves easier
- Healing validates forgiveness
- "Son of Man" declares messianic authority

7. Complete and Public Healing (*Matthew 9:7*)

- The man is healed instantly and completely
- The miracle is undeniable
- He walks away healed—and forgiven

8. Amazement Without Faith (*Matthew 9:8*)

- The crowd glorifies God but misunderstands Jesus
- They see power, but miss divinity
- Miracles confirm truth, but do not create faith

Application

- The greatest paralysis is **sin**
- The greatest miracle is **forgiveness**
- Temporary blessings fade; salvation lasts forever
- Faith must rest in Christ's authority alone

Key Question:

When you stand at the end of your life, who are you trusting to speak for God?