

Miracles - Part 2

Asking For a Friend

SUMMARY

In Matthew 9:1-8, we witness Jesus healing a paralyzed man, but the deeper significance lies in His authority to forgive sins. This passage challenges us to see Jesus not just as a miracle worker but as the Son of God who addresses the root of human suffering—sin. As we explore this text, we'll uncover the transformative power of Jesus' authority and consider how it applies to our lives today.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:1-8

DISCUSS

1. Understanding Jesus' Authority: In verse 2, Jesus tells the paralyzed man, "*Your sins are forgiven.*" Why do you think Jesus prioritized forgiving the man's sins over healing his physical condition? What does this reveal about Jesus' understanding of our deepest needs?
2. Faith in Action: The passage mentions that Jesus saw the faith of those who brought the paralyzed man to Him (verse 2). How does this demonstrate the importance of active faith and bringing others to Jesus? Who in your life needs this kind of support right now?
3. Responding to Skepticism: In verses 3-4, the teachers of the law accuse Jesus of blasphemy. How does Jesus' response to their skepticism (verses 4-6) challenge us to trust in His authority, even when others doubt or question our faith?
4. The Power of Healing and Forgiveness: After forgiving the man's sins, Jesus heals him physically (verses 6-7). How do forgiveness and healing relate in this passage? How might this connection influence the way we pray for healing and spiritual restoration in our own lives?
5. Awe and Transformation: The crowd was filled with awe and praised God after witnessing the miracle (verse 8). How can cultivating a sense of awe and wonder at God's work lead to transformation in our spiritual lives? What are some practical ways to nurture this sense of awe in our daily walk with God?

NEXT STEPS

This week, spend time in prayer reflecting on areas of your life where you need to recognize Jesus' authority—whether in seeking forgiveness, asking for healing, or stepping out in bold faith. Consider sharing one of these areas with a trusted friend or group member, and pray together for God's transformative power to be at work. Let this be a week of trusting in Jesus' authority and experiencing the awe that comes from seeing His hand in your life.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of Your power and grace. Thank You, Jesus, for Your authority to forgive and heal. Deepen our faith and help us to trust You fully, even when doubts arise. May our lives reflect the wonder of Your love as we bring our needs to You with bold faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.