

Matthew 9:1-13

“The King Forgives Sin & Calls Sinners”

How has the truth that Jesus forgives sin impacted your life? The reality that you can receive forgiveness from God for your sin is reason to rejoice if you have received Christ.

Discussion Qs

1. How has the truth that Jesus forgives sin impacted your life?
2. What are some obstacles to bringing people to Jesus?
3. What advice would you give on how to overcome the obstacles?
4. Why might Matthew leave the comfort and pleasure of the world to follow Jesus?
5. What would be the likely impact in your community if all the people who exploited others, or were exploited, received Christ's forgiveness and restoration, and followed Him?

“Jesus is our King and the Career Realm”

When Christ is your king you seek to represent Him in the marketplace (or school).

Pastor Robb Oram
Mobil Ave. campus

subject: the King forgives sin & calls sinners

objective: follow Jesus & receive His forgiveness

I. the King's power to forgive sin (vv. 1-8)

A. Jesus sees & responds to faith in Him

“Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18)

B. Jesus has the power to forgive sins

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

II. the King’s purpose to call sinners (vv. 9-13)

“But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

A. Jesus calls each of us to personally follow Him

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

B. Jesus calls all of us to repentance

Pastor Bruce Zachary

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Intro. How has the truth that Jesus forgives sin impacted your life?

Subject: Jesus forgives sin

Object: Receive Christ, receive forgiveness, and rejoice

Thesis: You need to receive Christ to be forgiven of your sin against God

I. Jesus Forgives Sin and Heals a Paralyzed man [1-8]

A. Jesus forgives sin in response to faith in Him [1-3]

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ² Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When **Jesus saw their faith**, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you**.” Jesus and the 12 return to Capernaum [1, Mk. 2:1]. Perhaps friends or relatives bring a paralyzed man to Jesus. **Mk. 2:1-12** The crowd in the house was so big they couldn’t get in so they break the mud and branch roof and lower the man to Jesus. Jesus responds to the faith and declares the man’s sins forgiven.

* Imagine the paralyzed man on his pallet – may not want to be lowered from roof

Son, be of good cheer: *tharseo* to take courage and be comforted. Seeking Christ’s forgiveness requires courage and results in comfort

1. Faith is belief that Jesus is the Messiah who restores man to God, and is proved by dependence upon and obedience to Him.

2. The greatest priority is spiritual healing: Paralyzed man sought healing in the physical realm, but Jesus’ affirms man’s great need is spiritual restoration with God.

a. Does not imply his physical condition is a consequence of sin [Jn. 9]

3. God alone is able to forgive sin [3] And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!

1. The religious teachers are offended, because only God can forgive sin
 - a. Only defense to the charge of blasphemy is that Jesus is God the Messiah
2. People are offended today at the idea of Jesus forgiving sin: deny God, deny sin and need for Savior, pursue self-help. But only God can forgive the judgment of sin.

B. Jesus offers proof that He can forgive sin [4-8]

1. Rejecting Jesus reveals an evil heart [4] But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?

a. Jesus knows their thoughts (and ours), and declares their rejection is evil. The scribes are seeking to be good (right with God). Their evil is rejecting Jesus as the Christ. The reason it is evil is because He has offered proof of His identity as Messiah.

i. Miraculous healing of the leper and others, teaching

2. Raising the man is proof that Jesus can forgive sin [5-7] For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ⁷ And he arose and departed to his house. ⁸ Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men. It is easy to say, “sins are forgiven” [5], but proving it is more challenging. Commanding a paralyzed man to stand and restoring him [6-7] authenticates Jesus’ identity (rebutts charge of blasphemy) and ability to forgive sin.

C. The restoration of man brings glory to God [8] and new life to man

1. The Resurrection of Jesus (raising the Man) proves He can forgive sin

2. The faithful overcome obstacles to bring people to Jesus

What are some obstacles to bringing people to Jesus?

- a. The problem of paralysis among believers and unbelievers

II. Jesus offers forgiveness to Matthew and other sinners [9-10]

A. Jesus offers notorious sinners an opportunity to be forgiven As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

1. Tax collectors considered some of the worst sinners because they exploited others:

Purchased a franchise from Rome, and then with the authority of the Rome collected taxes from their own people often assessing greater taxes than what was fair.

a. Mark tells us his birth name was Levi, but Jesus gave Him the name “Matthew” (gift of God). Matthew leaves all to follow Jesus [Lu. 5:28]

i. Jesus calls Matthew personally. Each of us is called personally [Jn. 10:3]

b. Why might Matthew leave the comfort and pleasure of the world to follow Jesus?

c. What if you confidently believed that by following Jesus you could receive forgiveness for all the people you exploited, hurt, and took advantage of, and have a clean slate and new life with God, would you choose to follow Him?

d. Matthew’s gospel clearly reveals he had no regrets re his decision to follow Jesus

2. Prostitutes and other sinners were often exploited by others [10] Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners

came and sat down with Him and His disciples. Matthew throws a feast to celebrate and invites his friends to meet Jesus. His friends are tax collectors and other sinners – most likely referring to prostitutes. and others

Matt. 11:19 Jesus is a friend of tax collectors and sinners

*** Do you build relationships with and befriend sinners?**

a. Sinners rejoice with Jesus when they choose to repent and follow Him

b. What if you had been taken advantage of by others and did things that you wish you never did, felt ashamed, exploited, taken advantage of, lost respect for yourself, and lost your identity as someone created in the image of God, and Jesus offers to restore it all if you will follow Him – would you?

B. Self-righteous people resent that Jesus and His gospel are presented to notorious sinners [11] And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

1. Self-righteous either forget that they are sinners or see themselves as better than other sinners. * How do you feel about those who befriend sinners?

a. They resent those types of sinners being invited to join the community of faith.

2. Pharisees seek to separate from sinners to avoid being “contaminated” by them

C. Jesus affirms that He came to call sinners to repentance [12-13] When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

1. Jesus did not come to call self-righteous people to greater morality

2. Jesus offers mercy to sinners and wants His people to do likewise

a. God desires mercy more than sacrifice [13] [Hos. 6:6]

Conc: Receive Christ, receive forgiveness, and rejoice

Baptism to celebrate & proclaim decision to follow Jesus