

**“Your Sins Are Forgiven”**

Matthew 9:1-8

**I. The Issue of Sin - 8:1-2**

**2. The Education of Sinners - 8:3-7**

“Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over the sea and came to His own city. And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, ‘Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.’ And some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This fellow blasphemes.’ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, ‘Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?’”

*Matthew 9:1-4*

**III. The Response of Sinners - 9:8**

“Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He \*said to the paralytic, ‘Get up, pick up your bed and go home.’ And he got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.”

*Matthew 8:5-8*

## Life Group Study Questions

### Your Sins Are Forgiven

Matthew 9:1-8

1. Has it ever taken you a while to figure out what was motivating someone in authority over you? What was that like and when did it become clear?

2. Have you ever had someone believe for you and take action? Who? What was that like?

3. When Jesus says “take courage,” He reveals that the paralytic was carrying an intense burden of sin and guilt. Do you carry any shame for the consequences of your sin? Do you have an outward need that really isn’t the deepest need of your life?

4. How should the response of Jesus to the man encourage our hearts?

5. The scribes react strongly to Jesus’ forgiving sin. What is the reason for the claim of blasphemy?

6. The scribes are rebuked by Jesus, not for their desire to defend truth, but for refusing to put their faith in Christ. Their unbelief was ugly and revealing. How is it that we can be very religious and still not put our faith in Christ?

7. Jesus’ question to the scribes is awesome. He puts them in a logic box that they may not like, but they cannot escape. Since He has the power to heal (from God), then He must have the power to forgive (because He is God).

8. Jesus makes it clear in 9:6 that He has the authority to forgive sins. This is His mission and primary focus; To forgive us and transform us. How is it that we so often miss this and make His mission something less?

9. The crowd gets it, even if at a basic level. Why does their understanding of this man Jesus, having the ability to forgive sin, lead them to fear and give glory to God?