



Many Ailments, One Cure

Text: Matthew 9:1-8, 18-33

Note: The Scripture references in this Bible study are taken from the New King James Version.

Matthew 9:1-8

- 1 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."
- 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"
- 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 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.

What did the men who brought a paralyzed man to Jesus expect? Why?

The men expected Jesus to heal the man because they were convinced He was the Messiah and it was prophesied that the Messiah would have this power...

Isaiah 35:4-6 - Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; he will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Also Jesus had demonstrated His healing power on many other occasions and had always shown mercy on those in need.

What then did Jesus say that surprised all who were there?

Jesus forgave the man's sins.

Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins rather than just heal him?

God is always doing more than what meets the eye. Here Jesus was working on more than one problem at the same time. His forgiving the sins of the man He was about to heal was done to reveal an important truth about Himself.

What truth was revealed about Jesus?

That Jesus is God because only God could forgive sins.

Who were the Pharisees?

The Pharisees was a religious sect of the Jews that are what we'd call today ultra-orthodox.

What did the Pharisees believe about the Ten Commandments and the Law of God?

They believed that God gave us the law so that we may be saved.

Is that true, did God give us the law so that we may be saved?

This is kind of a trick question... God did indeed give us the law so that we may be saved but not in the way the Pharisees thought of it. God gave us the law so that we may recognize our sinful condition and realize it is not possible to save oneself so that we may turn to God Himself for our salvation. If you are honest with yourself, you'd have to admit it is not possible to fully obey even the first law of the Ten commandments. The Pharisees believed that a person may save himself by obeying God's law.

Is it possible to be saved by obeying God's law? Why?

No! It is only by the grace of God through faith in His provision that we are saved...

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

What is grace?

It is unmerited favor. God grants to us what we need not because of anything we have done to earn it.

Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What was God's provision for salvation that we must have faith in to be saved?

Jesus paid our sin debt by dying in our place on the cross...

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

How do we come by this faith that saves us?

According to Ephesians 2:9, faith is a gift from God. Faith is not something we conjure up on our own, God gives us faith when we respond to Him.

How was the religion of the Pharisees like all of the religions of the world?

All religions of the world teach that people can earn salvation by observing certain dos and don'ts. With Christ, all that is necessary for our salvation has been done, it is not up to us. Christianity is so unique from the religions of the world that it bothers me to classify true Christianity as any kind of religion at all. A better term for true Christianity is a relationship.

Verse 3 – How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus forgiving the man's sins?

They thought Jesus was blaspheming God.

What is blasphemy?

Webster's dictionary says that blasphemy is the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.

Why did the Pharisees think Jesus was blaspheming God?

The Pharisees thought Jesus was only a man impersonating God because only God could forgive sins, all sin is sin against God....

Deuteronomy 25:16 - all who behave unrighteously are an abomination to the LORD your God.

The Pharisees did not believe even the Messiah God promised them could forgive sins. They did not believe the Messiah would be God, they expected the Messiah to be a prophet and a political deliverer like Moses. They were not looking for God Himself to come in the form of a man.

What did the Pharisees do to people who blasphemed God? Why?

The Pharisees taught that those who blasphemed God should be put to death since this was part of God's law...

Leviticus 24:16 - And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.

Verse 4 – How did Jesus know what the Pharisees were thinking?

This is more proof that Jesus is God, only God knows our thoughts...

Psalms 94:11 - The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.

Why did Jesus call the thoughts of the Pharisees evil?

The Pharisees rejected the idea that Jesus was God, this is evil.

Verses 5 & 6 - How had Jesus set Himself up to make a greater impact when He healed the paralyzed man?

Anyone can say, "your sins are forgiven" and it might impress some people, but it is very different for observers to see the result. Knowing this, Jesus put His entire ministry on the line. He basically said, "Okay men, words are cheap when they can not be proven or disproven. Now watch as I see if my actions don't prove that I am who I claim to be and have authority to forgive sins."

Who is the "Son of Man"?

This is Jesus' favorite name for Himself. It was a term for the Messiah used in Daniel...

Daniel 7:13-14 - I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

What did Jesus do to heal the paralyzed man?

Jesus just spoke to him and gave him instructions as to what he had to do to be healed.

What did the man have to do to be healed?

The man simply had to obey Jesus by doing what He said, get up and walk.

Verse 7 - Did the man do what Jesus told him to? Why?

Yes, because he believed that Jesus was the Messiah and had faith Jesus could heal him.

Would the man have been healed if he did not obey Jesus?

No, this is a pattern in Scripture. For healing to take place a step of faith is necessary to be taken. The man had to respond to Jesus. If he missed this opportunity in his unbelief, he would not have been healed.

Verse 8 - How did the people respond when they saw the healing of the paralyzed man?

The people praised God... It was clear that this miracle was an act of God.

Matthew 9:18-33

18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."

19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well."

And the woman was made well from that hour.

23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,

24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.

25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

Verse 18 - Who sought out Jesus to heal his daughter?

A ruler... this term is usually used in the New Testament for a member of the Sanhedren, the Jewish ruling body which means he was either a Pharisee or Saducee. Not that not all the Jewish religious leader rejected Jesus as Messiah. I believe Nichodemus was another prominent Pharisee who came to faith in Jesus. Note that Paul also was a Pharisee.

What did the ruler do?

My NKJV says that he worshiped Jesus meaning he greeted Jesus with great respect.

Why did the ruler the ruler worship Jesus?

He had faith that Jesus was the Messiah, the One sent from God to save Israel and as such had the power to save his daughter and even raise her from the dead.

Why did Jesus do what the man asked and go with Him to raise his daughter from the dead?

- Jesus certainly had compassion on the man and He saw his faith and recognized this as an opportunity to demonstrate who He was to other observers.
- Most of all, Jesus saw what God the Father was doing in this situation and got on board with what the Father program...

John 5:19 - Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

- Jesus was not responding to the ruler so much as He was responding to God the Father.

Verse 20 - What happened on the way to heal the ruler's daughter?

A woman with a chronic disease which caused her to have irregular periods for 12 years sought out Jesus to be healed.

Why do you think the woman approached Jesus from behind?

The woman's condition made her ceremonially unclean according to Jewish Law so she was a social outcast and did not want to be rejected before she had a chance to touch Jesus' clothing.

Leviticus 15:25 - If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean.

This woman had this disease for 12 years, do you think she might have tried everything she could think of during this time to be healed? So do you think she might have figured that she had nothing to lose by trying to touching Jesus?

No, look at verse 21, she knew Jesus would heal her. She had great faith in Him.

Was the woman able to touch Jesus' garment?

I think not because verse 22 says "but" Jesus turned around before the woman got to Him.

Verse 22 - What did Jesus do?

Jesus told the woman her faith had made her well.

How did Jesus know the woman was there?

Jesus is God and God knows our thoughts...

Matthew 12:25 - But Jesus knew their thoughts,

Was the woman healed?

Of course. Jesus said she was healed and it was so.

Verse 23 - Back to His original mission... What was going on at the ruler's house?

People were mourning the death of the ruler's daughter. As was the custom among wealthy families in that day, some were hired to play music and others were hired to make a lot of noise crying because of her death.

Do you think the ruler hired these people?

No, it had to be someone else in the ruler's family, maybe his wife because the ruler himself had faith that Jesus could raise his daughter from the dead.

verse 24 - What did Jesus do at the sight of the mourners?

Jesus got rid of everything that was untrue, the mourners were sent away. Then He stated the truth, the girl was not permanently dead. Jesus explained that only her body was sleeping. See another time when Jesus raised someone else from the dead:

John 11:11-14 - These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

How did the people responded to Jesus' proclamation of the girl's condition?

The people scoffed at the work of God.

Verse 25 - What happened to the scoffers?

The scoffers were put outside, the ruler made sure that the command of Jesus was obeyed.

Why do you think Jesus didn't want scoffers inside when He healed the girl?

God's miracles are not for those who reject the truth so Jesus made sure that no unbelievers would be present to witness one.

Verse 26 - Did the scoffers learn about the miracle healing?

Certainly they heard about it later.

How do you think people who heard about the healing of the girl responded?

- Some may have come to salvation as a result of hearing about the miracle. Certainly this is one reason the Lord healed the girl.
- But there are those so hardened in their world-view that even this miracle would have been rejected as not being from God. Indeed some Pharisees accused Jesus of working miracles by the power of Satan:

Matthew 12:22-24 - Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

Has God worked a miracle in your life?

Have people seen the results of the miracle God has worked in your life?

Has news of God's work in your life spread to others?

Verse 27 - Why did the two blind men call Jesus the Son of David?

This term was a popular title among the Jews for the coming Messiah because it was prophesied that the Messiah would be in the line of David:

Jeremiah 23:5 - "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Verse 28 - How did the men demonstrate their faith in Jesus?

They asked Him for mercy and even followed Him into the house.

What is the significance of the question Jesus asked them?

Jesus did not ask them if they thought God could heal them, He asked if they thought He could heal them.

How did Jesus know the faith of the men?

He is God, the faith we have comes from God. Certainly Jesus certainly also saw how the men responded to the faith they were given:

Jeremiah 17:10 - I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Verse 30 - Why didn't Jesus want the men to tell about Jesus healing them?

Jesus wanted God to get the glory, He did not want the man who people did not accept as God in the flesh to get the glory. Indeed, Jesus attributed all His miracles to the Father:

John 5:19 - Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of

Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

John 14:10 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.