

**WHY JESUS CAME – TO FORGIVE SINS!**  
**MATTHEW CH9:1-8 (Mark Ch2:1-12 + Luke Ch5:17-26)**

**ILLUSTRATION**

How many Bible characters can you think of where God performed miracles through them?

How many of those characters, claimed to be able to forgive sins?

**THE PARALYSED MAN AND HIS FRIENDS!**

Scripture recognises that all sickness and disease is caused either directly or indirectly by sin! When caused directly, a particular sin issues a particular illness or sickness. Healing cannot take place unless the sin is dealt with first!

When indirectly, it reflects that all of us live this side of the fall, under the curse and limited by mortality. Such sickness will plague us until Christ's return, or when He calls us home!

Healing is one of those benefits secured by the cross, occasionally now, and promised fully in the New Heaven and New Earth!

The man's paralysis was the direct result of specific sin! When Jesus, gently said “Take heart, son, your sins are forgiven”, it must have offered the brightest hope! It showed that Jesus clearly understood the man's condition!

For the paralytic, his healing, confirmed that his sins were forgiven!

**THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW AND THE CROWD!**

Satan's best friends are the unforgiven sinners!!!!

Blasphemy – Dishonouring God in some way, demeaning God, belittling God, dragging God down to our level, slander using God's name in an inappropriate way!

They accused Jesus of slander! Jesus challenges their evil thoughts, because they accused Him of slandering God's name, when in actual fact, they themselves were being blasphemous!

The teachers of the Law, could not, would not see Jesus as He truly was/is, God's Son, named Jesus “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt Ch1:21).

## **THE SON OF MAN AND HIS AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE!**

The Son of Man is the humble servant who has come to forgive the sins of common sinners in His earthly ministry (8:20, 9:6, 11:19, 12:8, 32, 40), used 6 times by Matthew.

The Son of Man is the suffering servant who offered His body as an atoning sacrifice on the cross and through this penalty being paid in full, satisfies God's wrath, leading to the redemption of His people (16:13, 27-28, 17:9, 12, 22, 20:18, 28, 26:2, 24, 45), used 11 times by Matthew.

The Son of Man is the glorious King and Judge who will return to earth (10:23, 13:37, 41, 19:28, 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44, 25:31, 26:64), again used 11 times by Matthew.

Matt Ch12:36 “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgement for every careless word they have spoken.”

Romans Ch14:12 “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

Heb Ch4:13 “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

***JESUS knows, sees and records our lives!!! In spite of all that He knows, sees and records, JESUS chooses to forgive sins!!!***

### **APPLICATION**

Human beings biggest need, is the need to be forgiven! Scripture reveals to us that God, in the form of Jesus, is willing and able to absorb in His own person, the sin bound up in suffering and sickness, through His death on the cross! Scripture also reveals, that Jesus and only Jesus has the authority to forgive sins! Jesus is able and willing to forgive both men and women their sins!

Prayers of faith on behalf of another person, may benefit the other person.

What value do we really put on the authority of Jesus to forgive people and in doing so meeting their biggest need?

What may be affecting our ability to put such confidence in Jesus? Reputation, family dynamics, risk of being persecuted, it may not happen, being misunderstood?