

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 9 v. 1-8

- **After casting the demons out, Jesus returns to Capernaum and is met by a group of men carrying a paralyzed man. (v. 1-2)**
 - There are a couple of interesting things that happen in Jesus initial interaction with the group of men (v. 2)
 - What is the first thing that Jesus recognizes from the group of men?

 - Upon seeing the faith that the men had, Jesus tells the men that their sins are forgiven.
 - Why would Jesus forgive the sins of these men before handling the physical ailment of their friend? _____
 - Read James 5:14-15. When we pray for healing with Faith, we are not only able to be healed physically, but more importantly healed Spiritually.

- **Upon hearing Jesus tell the men their sins are forgiven, the scribes claim inwardly that Jesus is blaspheming, and Jesus responds to their thoughts. (v. 3-5)**
 - Why would the scribes try to claim that Jesus was committing Blasphemy?
_____ (v. 3)
 - It is important to recognize that Jesus was not the first person to claim to be the Messiah. We must also recognize that the scribes and Pharisees weren't trying to follow God, but instead were more focused on keeping the Old law that they had manipulated.
 - How effective are we at knowing what's from God and what's not when our focus is not on Him? Read Ephesians 2:1-3.
 - Not only were the scribes doubtful because of their suspicion, but because they weren't truly seeking God in the first place, they couldn't recognize Jesus as his son to begin with.
 - Jesus responds to the scribes with two questions; Why are their hearts evil and what would be easier to do for the man; tell him his sins are forgiven or heal him? (v. 4-5)

- **Jesus then uses the physical ailment of the paralyzed man to show his authority as the Son of God. (v. 6-8)**
 - Notice the emphasis for healing the paralyzed man still isn't focused around the physical ailment, but is instead used as an opportunity to show that he has the authority to heal spiritually from God. (v. 6)
 - Why is it necessary for Jesus to do this? _____
 - What happens after Jesus tells the paralyzed man to take up his bed, and what is the result of this healing? (v. 7-8)
 - After Jesus commands the paralyzed man to walk he is healed, and because of this physical healing the multitude were able to recognize His authority but also give glory to God.
 - It is important to recognize the Heart Jesus has with his actions here. Despite having an opportunity to heal the man for His own glory, he does so to bring attention to God, and God is the one who is glorified.