

The Power of the King—Part 7

Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus repeatedly claimed His deity: *ego eimi* / *ἐγὼ εἰμι* (cf. Ex. 3:14; John 6:35, 41, 48, 51; 8:12; 9:5; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5)

Claiming to be able to forgive sins is also a claim of deity (cf. Isa. 43:25; Mic. 7:18–19; Ps. 51:4)

I. Jesus Returns to Capernaum (v. 1)

- a. Although Jesus was from Nazareth, but He had moved to Capernaum and quite possibly was living in Peter's home (cf. Mark 2:1; Matt. 8:14)

II. Jesus Forgives Sins (v. 2)

- a. Mark tells us that Peter's home was overflowing and Jesus was teaching (cf. Mark 2:2)
- b. Mark also tells how determined the 4 men were to bring their *paralytic* friend to Jesus (cf. Mark 2:3-4; Luke 5:17-20)
- c. This man's spirit was as broken as his body, so Jesus says: **take courage = tharseō (θαρσέω)** "to be of good courage," "to be cheerful," "to be confident," (cf. John 16:33)
- d. Then He declares: **your sins ARE forgiven**
 - i. This is the Good News of the Gospel against the bad news of the Gospel "23 **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**" (Rom. 3:23)
 - ii. Jesus is the only ONE who can forgive sins, being both the Just and the Justifier! (Rom. 3:24-26; cf. Isa. 43:25; Micah 7:18-19; Ex 34:6-7; Dan. 7:13f; John 5:22–27; John 3:17; 12:47b)

III. Jesus is Rejected (v. 3)

- a. The scribes realized that Jesus forgiving sins was a claim of deity and since they didn't/wouldn't believe in Him, they assumed: **This fellow blasphemes.**
- b. Luke tells us these Religious Leaders had come from all over Israel to judge Jesus (cf. Luke 5:17)
 - i. Their disbelief would climax in Matt 12:24 when they charged that: **"This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."**

IV. Jesus Proves His Power & Authority (vs. 4-7)

- a. First, He subtly proves His divine Power & Authority by knowing the inner thoughts and hearts of the scribes (Mark 2:6-7; cf. Jer. 17:9-10a; cf. 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Kings 8:39; 1 Chron. 28:9; Ezek. 11:5; Matt. 12:25; John 2:25)
- b. Second, Jesus proves boldly and undeniably that He has the Power & Authority of God by healing the man's paralysis.
 - i. The scribes knew that neither question Jesus asked was easy: they couldn't heal, and they couldn't forgive sins.
 - ii. But whereas the forgiveness of sins was invisible, the healing of the man was on full display and the one miracle proved the other!

V. Jesus Left the Crowd Awestruck (v. 8)

- a. **awestruck = phobeomai (φοβέομαι)** which means "to have such awe or respect for a person as to involve a measure of fear—'to fear, to show great reverence for, to show great respect for'" (cf. Luke 1:12; 2:9; 7:16; Matt. 14:26; 28:2-4, 8)
- b. The crowds had seen the Power & Authority of the King on full display, and they were left with a reverential fear and awe that drove them to Glorify God!