

Matt. 9:1-8, "Forgiven and Lifted Up" by Rev. Paul Hudson

The Miracles of Jesus in Matthew Summary, Sermon Notes Handout, Daily Devotional, Study Questions, & Crossword, 9/27/26

Summary

Big Idea

Jesus brings the kingdom of heaven near by forgiving sin, restoring what is broken, and lifting up a rescued people to praise God.

Jesus' miracles are not merely displays of power; they are down payments on creation's restoration, where heaven and earth are reconciled through Christ. In Matthew 9, helpless friends bring a paralyzed man to Jesus, showing that kingdom faith is communal. Jesus sees their faith, not ranking whose faith is greatest, and responds to a whole group dependent on his mercy.

Jesus addresses the deeper wound before the visible one: unforgiven sin, which ravages the soul more deeply than paralysis. His command to walk publicly verifies his authority on earth to forgive sins, proving he is the true Messiah and that the kingdom has come. The proper response is awe and praise, while the church becomes mat-carriers who pray, serve, invite, and walk alongside the helpless.

Keys and Themes

1. Miracles Reconcile Heaven and Earth

Jesus' miracles are glimpses of Eden and future restoration. They subvert evil's corruption and show creaturely living as God intended through Christ.

2. Kingdom Faith Is Communal

The friends carry a helpless man to Jesus, and Jesus sees their shared faith. God's grace often reaches people through persistent prayer, invitation, compassion, and Christ's community.

3. Jesus Sees the Deeper Wound

Jesus looks beyond visible paralysis to the soul's need for forgiveness. Kingdom restoration reaches deeper than bodily relief, bringing healing and wholeness to those ravaged by sin.

4. Forgiveness Is Kingdom Priority

Ignoring sin denies God's authority over his creation. The first visible sign of Christ's kingdom on earth is forgiveness that leads to a transformed life.

5. Healing Verifies Divine Authority

Forgiveness could be claimed without visible proof, but the command to walk could immediately be tested. The man's healing proves the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

Sermon Notes Handout

Sermon Title: Forgiven and Lifted Up | **Scripture:** Matt. 9:1-8

Point 1: Bring the Helpless

Fill in the blank: “Kingdom faith is not _____, it is _____.”

Question: Who needs help getting to Jesus?

Notes:

Point 2: See Faith Together

Fill in the blank: “Jesus saw faith surrounding _____ of them.”

Question: Can you receive others’ help humbly?

Notes:

Point 3: Address the Deeper Problem

Fill in the blank: “The deeper problem is not our circumstances but our _____.”

Question: What deeper wound needs Christ’s mercy?

Notes:

Point 4: Trust His Authority

Fill in the blank: “Jesus is the only authority on earth for _____.”

Question: Do you acknowledge your need for forgiveness?

Notes:

Point 5: Praise and Carry Grace

Fill in the blank: “Our missional kingdom call... is to become _____.”

Question: How will you carry someone this week?

Notes:

Reflection Question: If Jesus fixed every circumstance but left you unforgiven, would you really be healed?

Next Step: Pray for one hurting person and take one faithful step to bring them toward Jesus.

Family Discussion Question: How can our family carry each other’s burdens and bring one another to Jesus?

Daily Devotional

Sunday — Glimpses of Restoration

Scripture: Matthew 9:1–8

The miracles of Jesus reveal more than his authority as the Son of God. They show the kingdom of heaven breaking into a broken world. They are down payments on the future restoration of creation, when heaven and earth are merged as one kingdom. In this healing, Jesus confronts what sin and evil have damaged and gives a glimpse of creaturely living as God intended. The good news is not merely that trouble can be relieved; in Christ, dying sinners are being transformed into the likeness of the resurrected Jesus.

Reflect Questions:

1. *Where do you see brokenness needing Christ's restoration?*
 2. *How does this miracle enlarge your hope for creation?*
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Monday — Faith That Carries

Scripture: Matthew 9:1–2; Galatians 6:2

The paralyzed man's friends went to great lengths to bring their buddy to Jesus. Matthew says Jesus saw "their faith." Kingdom faith is not private; it is communal. Sometimes we walk to Jesus by faith on our own, but often we need to be carried by the faith of friends, family, and the church. Asking for help is not failure at faith; it is an act of faith. We cannot fix broken souls, but we can pray, invite, persist in love, and bring people to the One who can.

Reflect Questions:

1. *Who has carried you toward Christ recently?*
 2. *Whom can you bring to Jesus with compassion?*
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Tuesday — The Deeper Wound

Scripture: Matthew 9:2; Psalm 103:2–4

Jesus did not ignore the man's paralysis, but he addressed something deeper first. He looked past the visible condition and spoke warmly: "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Our culture often treats the visible problem as the main problem. Yet Jesus reveals that kingdom restoration goes to the core of the being. Unforgiven sin is like burning embers in the soul, spreading destruction far beyond what others can see. Healing and wholeness begin when Christ speaks forgiveness to the tortured soul.

Reflect Questions:

1. *What visible concern may be hiding a deeper need?*
2. *Have you brought your sin honestly before Jesus?*

Wednesday — Forgiveness First

Scripture: Matthew 9:3–6; Isaiah 53:5–6

The teachers of the law were offended because forgiveness belongs to God. Many now are offended differently, because they deny sin or deny needing forgiveness. But the forgiveness of sins is first in the order of straightening out creation for God's kingdom. Without forgiveness, there is no place for humans in the kingdom of heaven. Christ's kingdom restores creation under God's reign and rule. Do not push sin aside or settle for a church that does. Seek King Jesus with full awareness of sin and confidence in his mercy.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. Why is admitting sin difficult for you?*
 - 2. How does forgiveness place you under Christ's reign?*
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Thursday — Authority Proven Publicly

Scripture: Matthew 9:5–8

It was easier for Jesus to say, “Your sins are forgiven,” before a crowd because spiritual healing could not be outwardly verified. But if he said, “Get up and walk,” everyone would immediately know whether he was false. Jesus healed the man physically to prove that the Son of Man has divine authority on earth to forgive sins. The miracle reveals that the real kingdom of heaven has come through Jesus, the true Messiah. His forgiveness is not an empty claim; his authority is real, visible, and transforming.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. What does the healing prove about Jesus?*
 - 2. Where do you need to trust his authority?*
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Friday — Take Heart, Son

Scripture: Matthew 9:2

Jesus' first words to this man are strikingly tender: “Take heart, son.” He did not treat him as cursed, deservedly judged, or beyond compassion, though some rabbis taught such things about the lame and blind. Jesus opposed that lack of compassion. He saw the man's trouble, named the deeper need, and spoke forgiveness with warmth. The gospel is for those who are broken and in need; the kingdom of heaven is for those who know they need God's mercy. Come to Christ without pretending you are whole.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. Can you hear Jesus' compassionate words to the needy?*
- 2. Where are you tempted to pretend you are whole?*

Saturday — Awe That Becomes Testimony

Scripture: Matthew 9:7–8

When the crowd saw the man get up, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such authority. This is the fitting response to Christ's miracles: praise. Praise is not merely a private feeling; it is spoken words about what God has done in our lives. It is testimony to his transforming power and authority. As Christ's forgiven people, we carry his grace beyond our walls so neighbors may experience his forgiveness, restoration, and transforming power. Let awe move your mouth, your service, and your witness.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. What has Christ done that you can praise him for?*
- 2. How can your testimony point a neighbor toward Jesus?*

Study Questions

Read Matt. 9:1-8 and listen to the sermon "Forgiven and Lifted Up" (9/27/26)

Observation

- 1) What did Jesus see when the men brought the paralyzed man to him?
- 2) What unexpected words did Jesus first speak to the paralyzed man?
- 3) What thoughts did the teachers of the law entertain in their hearts?
- 4) How did the crowd respond after the man got up and went home?

Interpretation

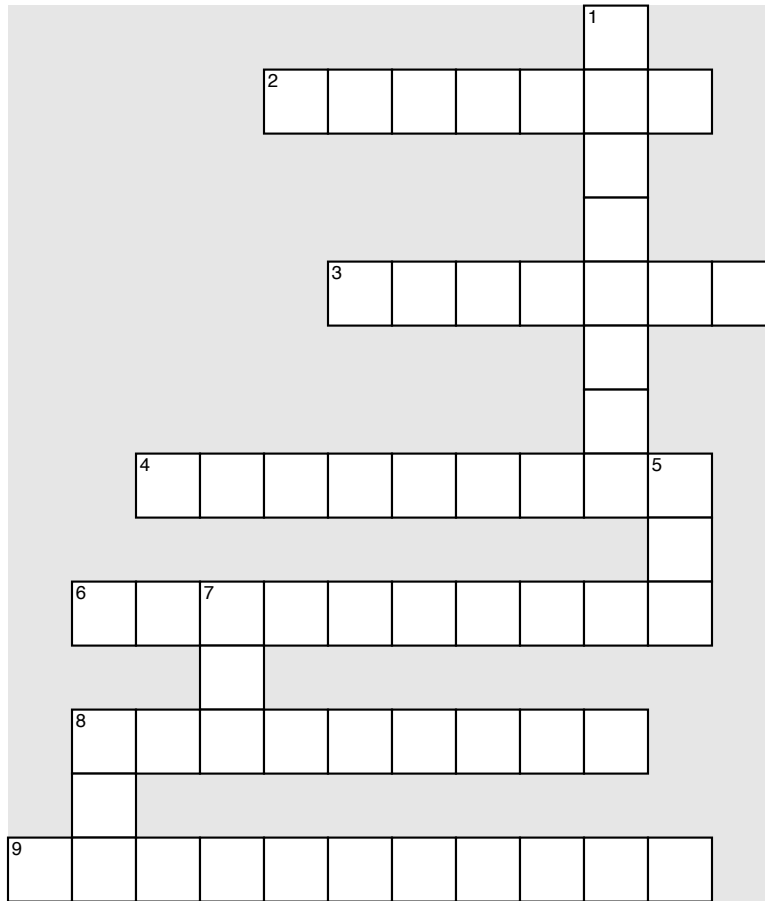
- 1) Why does the sermon call kingdom faith communal rather than private?
- 2) Why did Jesus address forgiveness before the man's physical paralysis?
- 3) How did the visible healing prove Jesus' authority to forgive sins?
- 4) What does forgiveness reveal as the first sign of Christ's kingdom on earth?

Application

- 1) Whom might God be calling you to carry to Jesus through prayer and care?
- 2) Where do you need to humbly let others carry you toward Christ?
- 3) Do you treat your circumstances as deeper than your need for forgiveness?
- 4) How can your praise testify to Christ's transforming authority this week?

Crossword Puzzle

Forgiven and Lifted Up | Matt. 9:1-8 | 9/27/26



Across

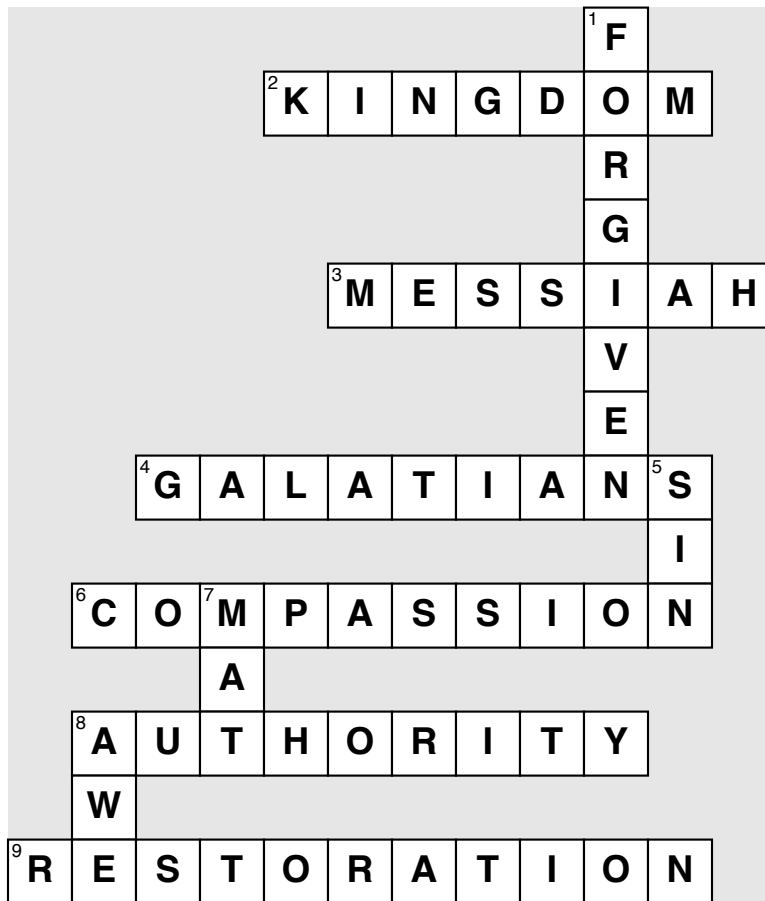
2. Heaven's reign breaking into earth through Christ
3. The true one revealed by the healing
4. The Epistle cited about carrying each other's burdens
6. The friends displayed this for their buddy
8. What the Son of Man has on earth
9. Future transformation glimpsed in miracles

Down

1. What Jesus declared over the man's sins
5. The deeper problem Jesus addressed first
7. What the healed man carried home
8. The crowd was filled with this response

Crossword Answer Key

Forgiven and Lifted Up | Matt. 9:1-8 | 9/27/26



Across Answers

2. KINGDOM
3. MESSIAH
4. GALATIANS
6. COMPASSION
8. AUTHORITY
9. RESTORATION

Down Answers

1. FORGIVEN
5. SIN
7. MAT
8. AWE