

## “Our Deepest Need”

Matthew 9:1-8

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**Take-Home Truth:** Jesus meets the deepest need of our hearts . . . forgiveness.

*And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup>And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” <sup>3</sup>And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” <sup>4</sup>But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup>For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? <sup>6</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” <sup>7</sup>And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup>When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:1-8 (English Standard Version)*

**Question #1:** Why is forgiveness our greatest need?

### Three Words Explain Our Need

- Creation: God is infinite and the sole Source of the entire created order.
- The Fall: Mankind rebelled against God’s authority and replaced Him with other gods.
- Redemption: Redemption from sin’s bondage was made possible when Christ paid a price for our sin on the cross.

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>21</sup>And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. Colossians 1:13-14, 21-22 (ESV)*

**Question #2:** Who is Jesus and why does He have authority to forgive?

**Answer:** Jesus has authority because He is Divine.

Jesus uses an important title for Himself: “the Son of Man”.

*“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14 (New International Version)*

*“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:64 (NIV)*

**Question #3:** What happens when Jesus forgives?

“Forgive” = “send away”

*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. . . .<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8, 12 (ESV)*

**Question #4:** What’s my part in being forgiven?

**Answer:** faith

*. . . if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (ESV)*