

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## **Displaying More Power**

### *How much healing?*

#### **Matthew 9:1-8**

- **8:28**, When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes
- **9:1**, So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

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**Mark 5:21**, Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side

How long had He been there?

- It appears to be the same day

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**8:34-9:1**, They got what they wanted from Him

- They begged Him to leave, and He did!

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Jesus gives us similar instruction (**John 20:21**)

- **Matthew 10:11-14**, When you enter any town or village, find out who is worthy, and stay there until you leave. Greet a household when you enter it, and if the household is worthy, let your peace be on it. But if it is unworthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that house or town.
- **Pearls before swine?**

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**1983** – Billy Graham at the Tacoma Dome

- **Charles Finney**, “Stop praying for that man. I’ve handed him over.”

**9:2**, Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.

- **Mark 2:1-4**, And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. And many gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, **they uncovered the roof** where He was. So **when they had broken through, they let down the bed** on which the paralytic was lying.

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They wanted nothing more than to get their friend to Jesus

- **John 1:46**, “Come and see.”

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**Jesus is the sole source of everything that matters**

- Without Him there is no **life or hope!!**

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**9:2**, When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

- What would you think if you brought your friend to Jesus for healing...
- And He said to them, **“Good News! Your sins are forgiven you.”**

**What is most important to Jesus?**

- His healing, or his forgiveness?
- What is most important to us?
- **Margo Carlson**

Do we **hunger for the eternal**, more than the temporal?

- Because our values & priorities will leak out to those we communicate our faith to
- **John 20:21-23**, So Jesus said to them again, **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”** And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

We don’t always know if He will heal

- **We do know He will forgive**
- He promises to use us for that, too

How many in need of healing are willing to rejoice in forgiveness without healing?

- **Sheldon Arkin**

**Why did He forgive that guy first?**

- Because it’s the most valuable gift He has to offer
- Because it is eternal healing
- Maybe the man had some sin weighing heavily on his heart separating him from God

**Vs. 3-4**, And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, **“This man is blaspheming.”** But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, **“Why do you think evil in your hearts?”**

- **Matthew 12:34**, For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- **Proverbs 4:23**, Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

**He knows our hearts**

- The paralytic, the scribes, and you & me

**Vs. 5**, **“For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?”**

- Which do we most easily say with confidence it will happen?
- **John 20:23**, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them”**

**I Corinthians 12:8-11**, To one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, **to another gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

**I Corinthians 12:29-30**, Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? **Do all have gifts of healings?** Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Do all have the authority to forgive?

- **John 20:23**, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them”**

Which would we most desire to give?

- The temporal, or the eternal?
- **John 20:21**, Jesus said to them again, **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”**

**Vs. 6-8**, But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He told the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your mat, and go home.” And he got up and went home. When the crowds saw this, they were awestruck and gave glory to God who had given such authority to men.

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**Jesus healed to demonstrate that He is God**

- He gave us **the power to forgive...**
- **to demonstrate that we are like Him**

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**Matthew & Mark give differing perspectives on the same encounter**

- Matthew could assume his Jewish audience knew **the primary importance of forgiveness of sins**
- Mark may have wanted to emphasize that over physical wellbeing **to Gentile readers**

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**What are we after here?**

- **What is God after?**
- Here & now

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**II Timothy 3:16-17**, All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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**What is God after?**

- 1) To reveal Himself in Christ  
**John 1:1-2, 14 & 18 and Colossians 2:9**
- 2) To reveal who we are  
**Colossians 2:10 & I John 1:8-10**

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**What can we learn from Matthew & Mark here?**

- The Good News of who Jesus is, is not one-size-fits-all!

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**Paul would learn who a new group of people were...**

- And bring who Jesus is into their world-view reality
- **Acts 17:18-31**
- We can do the same, with the healing forgiveness Christ offers