

Jesus Authority to Forgive Sin: Part 2

Luke 5:17-26

BIG IDEA:

Jesus asserts that he has the authority to forgive sins. The Pharisees accuse him of blasphemy. What they don't understand is that Jesus, being God, has the authority to forgive sin because, as God, he has the power to overcome sin on the cross.

1. JESUS' _____ TO _____ SINS

Luke 5:20 (ESV) — 20 And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

Since **God** has been offended, forgiving sin is **an infinitely monumental** task.

Luke 75:24–25 (ESV) — 24 “**But** that you may **know** that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 25 And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

Paralysis affects a man for as long as he is alive. But sin affects a man for as long as he is dead. Jesus' point here is that if he can accomplish the thing of far less consequence that he can also accomplish the thing of eternal consequence.

What is sin?

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Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God or any transgression of the law of God. Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, unbelief and total depravity of man's being. Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.

1 John 3:4 (LSB) — 4 Everyone who does sin also does lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Sin is any **thought, desire, or action** that **contradicts** the **revealed** will or law of God

Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV) — 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV) — 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Sin is a holy offense against a holy God.

“... when a person sins, he willfully fails to attain his created purpose and defiantly rebels against the Lord's authority, and consequently incurs guilt and liability to punishment.” -Joel Beeke

Romans 3:23 (ESV) — 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV) — 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

All of us have spurned God and determined that we know better and have turned our back on Him to go our own way.

Luke 18:25-27 (ESV) — 25 “For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” 27 But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

If forgiving sin is infinitely harder than healing the paralytic, and Jesus is able to forgive sin, then he is also easily capable of transforming the sinner.

2. JESUS' _____ TO _____ THE SINNER

Luke 5:24 (ESV) — 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

- In what ways has Jesus healed you of sin's sickness? What does it look like to continue to believe in Jesus' authority and ability in your day to day life?