

Forgiveness

Matthew 9:1-8

What is important in life?

Education

Career

Family

Voluntary service

What is crucial?

Less is more

Is Jesus' claim to authority credible?

A strange encouragement (v2)

A rabbinical question (v5)

The authoritative word (vv6,7)

The reaction of the crowd (v8)

A strange encouragement (v2)

Take heart

the man has come to the right place
there is reason for hope

Son

I've got your back
We can get through this together

Your sins are forgiven

What???

The heart of the issue

A rabbinical question (v5)

Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? (NIV Mt 9:5)

If (as the teachers thought) suffering is the result of sin, how could healing happen without forgiveness?

But who has the right to forgive?

And can it be that simple?

Which is easier to *prove*?

The authoritative word (vv6,7)

Jesus speaks in nobody's name but himself

The healing proves the authority to forgive

As a matter of logical necessity, Jesus is claiming *divine* authority

The reaction of the crowd (v8)

A proper awe, a strange conclusion

Men (plural) (v8)

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (NIV Mt 28:18–20)

Coming to church will not make you a Christian, but the church as it teaches Jesus' words is where he is to be found.

The crucial thing is to come to Jesus for forgiveness.