

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Education and Responsibility” outline**  
March 3, 2019

**Matthew 9: 1-8**

*This morning we will return to our slow progression through Matthew's gospel. We have considered Jesus' teaching on what sort of person resides comfortably in the Kingdom of Heaven. He will be a person whose personal dispositions are the polar opposite of those who comfortably inhabit the Kingdom of Self or Satan.*

*Following His sermon Jesus continued His demonstrative exhibition of the power of this Kingdom. His healings, power over nature and casting out demons were exhibitions of a power source from beyond this earth! His miraculous acts and authoritative teaching were attractive to the common man....but for those in positions of human power and authority they proved to be a bit more challenging.*

*In this morning's passage we find Jesus once again confronted with a person in physical need but this time He uses the encounter to challenge the religious authorities to re-think their theology. Our systems of thought...theological or otherwise....present us with real personal security and a certain peace....even when these systems are mistaken. To re-think our doctrinal positions is never easy and usually involves much psychological turmoil before once again settling down to peace. But such is the nature of the pursuit of truth by finite individuals. Jesus claimed the power to not only heal but to forgive sins! The scribes knew that only God could forgive sins. Their theological peace was being disturbed... and inner peace was not the immediate consequent!*

**1. The Story Matt. 9: 1-8**

- **The paralytic and his friends**  
vv. 1-2a; Mk 2: 4-5
  
- **Jesus forgives his sins!**  
v. 2b; Dan. 7: 13-14
  
- **The scribes take issue!**  
v. 3; Lk 5: 21; Lev. 24: 13-16

- **Jesus responds to the challenge.**  
vv. 4-6
  
  - **The crowds are fearfully amazed!**  
vv 7-8; Matt. 18: 15-20
2. **A Question: How is sickness related to sin?**  
John 9: 2-3; Jms 5: 15
  
  3. **Our Lesson: How does our love for doctrine relate to our love for Jesus?**

### **Questions for Discussion and Reflection**

1. **What do you think it was like to follow Jesus when He was on earth? Do you think the disciples were consumed with a desire for fame and fortune? Do you think they really knew what they were getting into? Many of those who started to follow Jesus quit when the cost became more obvious. What do you think set those who continued with Him apart from those who did not?**
  
2. **How did Jesus' power to heal bodies relate to His power to forgive sins? Why were the scribes so resistant to this idea? Why do you think His disciples were more receptive? Why were those who witnessed the exchange fearful?**
  
3. **Why did Jesus forgive this man's sins when the man had come in order to be healed? Do you think this man's sins had resulted in his sickness? Is there any evidence for this from the text? What do you think is the relationship between particular sins and particular sicknesses? Is there a general connection between sin and sickness? What is it?**
  
4. **How does your love for theology relate to your love for Jesus? Maybe you don't love theology!? But is it possible to love Jesus without desiring to know about Him? Can you really love another person without also desiring to know more about that person? How can our love for theology replace our love for Jesus? What follows when this happens? But how can we love Jesus without knowing something about Him? Which is better....to be confused and on the right track? Or at peace and on the wrong one?!**