



Sermon Discussion Questions

Matthew 9:1-8 // The God Who Heals Body and Soul

- Matthew focuses on Jesus' authority in this story. What has your experience with authority figures in your life (parents, bosses, teachers) been like – positive, negative, fearful, cautious? Why? How does God being an authority (ruler, judge, lawgiver) shape the way you think about or feel about him?
- Jesus looks at the paralyzed man and his four friends and “sees their faith” in verse 2. If people were to look at your life for evidence of faith in Jesus, what would they see?
- Who in your life supports you by their faith and encourages you in pursuing Jesus? Whom do you support and encourage? How?
- How is Jesus' words to the paralytic in verse 2 encouraging and reassuring? Pastor Jeff suggested that Jesus says this first (instead of addressing the man's paralysis) to make it clear that his difficulty wasn't a result of God's anger or absence. Does difficulty or suffering cause you to doubt God's goodness or love? How do Jesus' words here reassure you?
- Jesus asserts – and demonstrates – authority to heal illness, forgive sins, and transform lives. How have you seen or experienced Jesus' power in those ways?
- What do we do when God doesn't heal, save, or provide in ways that we ask?
- What suffering, lack, or brokenness do you need to bring to Jesus?
- Are there people around you who are suffering and need to hear encouragement and experience God's love through you? How can God use you to bless, encourage, or help others like you've been helped?



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