

# Luke 5:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say,  
Rise up and walk?

## Analysis

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Whether is easier to say Thy sins be forgiven thee or say Rise up and walk. Whether ti comparative question. Easier eucopōteron less difficult. To say eipein verbal pronouncement. Thy sins be forgiven present passive. Or ē alternative. Rise up egeirai stand. Walk peripatei move about. Point is neither easy both require divine power. But forgiveness invisible healing visible authenticates invisible reality. Jesus performs harder (healing) to prove authority for unseen (forgiveness). Miracles as signs function authenticating message. Reformed theology sees miracles as God signature attesting revelation. Not every age receives same miracle density apostolic era foundational revelation required attestation.

## Historical Context

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Rabbis could pronounce sins forgiven based on sacrifices. But Jesus claims direct authority apart from temple system. This threatened religious establishment. Healing paralytic visible undeniable proof of claimed authority. Ancient world connected physical illness spiritual state. Jesus healing demonstrated authority over both physical spiritual realms. Early church miracles authenticated apostolic message. Hebrews 2:3-4 God testified signs wonders miracles gifts Spirit. Once Scripture complete need for attestation miracles diminished. Not that God cannot or does not perform miracles but purpose shifts healing becomes foretaste final resurrection rather than attestation of new revelation.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Jesus heal paralytic to prove authority forgive sins what does this teach about relationship between physical spiritual healing?
2. How do miracles function as signs pointing to greater spiritual realities rather than ends in themselves?

## Interlinear Text

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τί	ἐστιν	εὐκοπώτερον	εἰπεῖν	Ἀφέωνται	σοι	αἱ	
<b>Whether</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>easier</b>	<b>to say</b>	<b>be forgiven</b>	<b>thee</b>	<b>G3588</b>	
G5101	G2076	G2123	G2036	G863	G4671		
ἀμαρτίαι	σου	ἢ	εἰπεῖν	Ἐγειραι	καὶ	περιπάτει	
<b>sins</b>	<b>Thy</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>to say</b>	<b>Rise up</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>walk</b>	
G266	G4675	G2228	G2036	G1453	G2532	G4043	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 2:9** (Resurrection): Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

**Matthew 9:5** (Resurrection): For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?