

Matthew 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Analysis

Jesus' statement 'But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins' makes the healing evidential—proving His divine authority. The title 'Son of man' (from Daniel 7:13-14) claims messianic identity. Only God can forgive sins, so Jesus demonstrates deity by healing the paralytic—the visible miracle authenticates the invisible spiritual reality. The command 'Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house' is immediate and complete healing.

Historical Context

The scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy (v. 3) because claiming to forgive sins usurped God's prerogative. Jesus' response—performing a miracle only God could do—vindicated His claim. The healing served as physical proof of spiritual authority.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' authority to forgive sins give you confidence in your salvation?
2. What 'paralysis' in your spiritual life needs Jesus' healing word?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	δὲ	εἰδῆτε	ὅτι	ἐξουσίαν	ἔχει	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ
that	But	ye may know	that	power	hath	G3588	the Son	G3588
G2443	G1161	G1492	G3754	G1849	G2192		G5207	
ἀνθρώπου	ἐπὶ	τῆς	γῆς	ἀφιεῖναι	ἁμαρτίας	τότε	λέγει	
of man	on	G3588	earth	to forgive	sins	(then	saith he	
G444	G1909		G1093	G863	G266	G5119	G3004	
τῷ	παραλυτικῷ	Ἐγερθεὶς	ἄρὸν	σου	τὴν	κλίνην	καὶ	
G3588	to the sick of the palsy	Arise	take up	thine	G3588	bed	and	
	G3885	G1453	G142	G4675		G2825	G2532	
ὑπάγε	εἰς	τὸν	οἶκόν	σου				
go	unto	G3588	house	thine				
G5217	G1519		G3624	G4675				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

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

2 Corinthians 2:10 (Parallel theme): To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;