Matthew #5 (9:1 - 9)
Sixth miracle in series - the third miracle in the second series of three
I. Let us Look at the Background of the Story
A. This is familiar story- but it is Mark and Luke that provide details
   1. Mark 2:1 - 12; Luke 5:17 - 26; Carried by four men to Jesus
      a. Couldn't get near-climbed on roof and let him down through hole
B. V. 1- Came to His own city - comparing accounts this is Capernaum
   1. Not Bethlehem or Nazareth, but they didn't use it well- Matt. 11:23
   2. He was here because of terrible prayer of people in Matthew 8:34
C. V. 2- "Behold" - word indicates something wonderful about to happen
D. V. 2- "Take heart" could also be "Be of good cheer" or "take comfort"
   1. Calls him "Son" (Gr.=Teknon) - could be reference to his adoption
II. Look at the Question of Forgiveness of Sins and Healing
A. Matthew wants to focus on the idea of Jesus forgiving sins
   1. All the accounts of Jesus' healings are to focus on Him as sinbearer
B. In saying what He did in v. 2-Jesus makes a link between sin & sickness
   1. If there had been no sin- there would be no disease - Gen. 3:16-19
   2. But doesn't mean that all sickness is result of personal sin- John 9:1-3
      a. It could be result of our sin or parent's - Ex. 20:5; Jer. 32:18
   3. Misfortune that happens not necessarily because of our sin-Lu. 13:1-5
C. Is there link on positive side? Does forgiveness mean physical healing?
   1. Yes it does - It also means resurrected body and new heaven & earth
      a. The question in all these things is in regards to timing
III. Then Let us look at Response of Scribes and Response of Jesus
A. Mk. 2:6 7- They thought blasphemy since only God can forgive sins
   1. This idea is theologically orthodox- Is. 43:25; Dan. 9:9
      a. Because every sin we commit is ultimately against God- Ps. 51:4
   1. They can also be against others as well (Uriah, Bathseba)
      b. But since they are against God- only God has right to forgive them
      c. We only speak forgiveness in sense of what God's word declares
B. V. 5- This question could be answered different ways
   1. If dealing with ease of detection- then "Sin" statement easier
   2. In terms of difficulty - sin is the worst problem there ever was
      a. But in dealing with God's power- nothing is too difficult- Jer. 32:17
C. Jesus is doing something in this story only God can do
   1. Reading their thoughts - Only God knows hearts - 1 Kings 8:39
   2. So this action proves He has ability to also forgive sins
D. V. 6- Jesus says they may know He has power to forgive sins
   1. Because He has the power to heal this man from his lameness
   2. Because He had the ability to know their hearts and minds
   3. Now knowing this- accusing Him of blasphemy could be unforgivable
Conclusion: What is our response to all this?
A. Not response of scribes ( v. 3) accuse Christ of blasphemy
   1. This leads to our blaspheming Holy Spirit - Mark 3:28, 29
B. V. 8- Response of crowd good - but doesn't go far enough
   1. Need to follow Peter in Matthew 16:16-He is the Christ-our sinbearer