

Lesson 20: The Doctor Who Heals and Forgives

Matthew 9:1-13; Isaiah 35, Psalm 103

I. THE SEVERITY OF OUR SICKNESS (Gen 2:17; Isa 35:6)—paralytic a picture of our inability

A. The Physical Effect of Sin (Gen 2:17)

B. The Spiritual Effect of Sin (Jer 17:9, 14)

1. We are unable to save ourselves. (Rom 5:6, 8; 8:3)

2. We can't even bring ourselves to Jesus! (Jn 6:44, 65)

II. THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

A. His Skill

1. Power to Heal the Body (the obvious problem)

a. Physical Illness is a symptom of a deeper illness.

b. Jesus cares to alleviate our suffering.

c. Jesus came to revoke the Curse.

2. Power to Heal the Soul (the deeper problem)

a. Alienation from God is the problem.

b. Jesus has authority to forgive sins. (Ps 103:13-14)

- The Charge of Blasphemy (Isa 43:25)—*Only God can forgive sins!*

- The Sign of Healing—uses the lesser (miracle) to prove the greater

- The Significance "on earth"—in person, here and now, Jesus can forgive sins and restore fellowship with God.

B. His Manner—Jesus expresses the kind and gracious heart of God the Father

1. **He speaks first.** (Isa 65:24)—God is more eager to bless us than we are to ask Him!
2. **He speaks graciously.**—“*Take heart!*” (courage, hope)—nothing impossible for Him.
3. **He speaks affectionately.** (Ps 103:13)—“*My son*” (God’s fatherly heart)
 - If you are ever tempted to think that God *despises* you because of your sin and weakness, *remember Jesus and think again!*

III. THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

A. Jesus chooses Unlikely Disciples.

B. Jesus came for Sinners, not the Righteous.

If we could *achieve righteousness*, Jesus would not have had to come and die.

1. He loves sinners.
2. He calls sinners to repentance.
3. The self-righteous feel no need of a Savior.

C. He desires Mercy rather than Sacrifice. (Hos 6:6)

1. God desires sincerity and integrity, not religious games.
2. Self-righteous people despise mercy. They don’t think they need of it.