



Go for God!

“BE OF GOOD CHEER!”

MATTHEW Chapter 9:1-13

(v1-8) BE OF GOOD CHEER YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!

> Observe three keys that SAVED and HEALED this paralytic:

- Key #1 - He had good friends that brought him to Jesus!

(Details are found in Luke Ch. 5:18-26.) This was a labor of love! They picked him up, hauled him to the house, then climbed onto the roof, pulled the tiles out and lower him down. Many times, our inspiration will include perspiration in leading others to Christ! **James 2:18** says - *I will show you my faith by my works!*

- Key #2 - Jesus knows our greatest need, the forgiveness of our sins!

Isaiah 53:6 - *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Romans 3:10-12 - *"There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."*

Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Revelation 22:12-16 - *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."*

> Let's understanding forgiveness - No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin (Ps 51:1,9; Isa 38:17; Heb 10:17). The initiative comes from Him (John 3:16; Col 2:13) because He is ready to forgive (Luke 15:11-32). He is a God of grace and pardon (Neh 9:17; Dan 9:9).

- Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God's holy character (Gen 2:17; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Peter 1:16), but His pardon is gracious (Ps 130:4; Rom 5:6-8).

- For God to forgive sin, two conditions are necessary:

(1) A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner (Lev 17:11,14; Heb 9:22)

(2) And the sinner must come to God's sacrifice in a spirit of REPENTANCE and FAITH! (Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15).

- **Forgiveness in the New Testament is directly linked to Christ** (Acts 5:31; Col 1:14), His sacrificial death on the cross (Rom 4:24), and His resurrection (2 Cor 5:15). He was the morally perfect sacrifice (Rom 8:3), the final and ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament sacrifices (Heb 9:11-10:18).

- **JESUS bore the law's death penalty against sinners** (Gal 3:10-13), those who trust in His sacrifice are freed from that penalty. By faith sinners are forgiven-"justified" in Paul's terminology (Rom 3:28; Gal 3:8-9). Those who are forgiven sin's penalty also die to its controlling power in their lives (Rom 6).

- **Christ's resurrection was more than proof of His deity and innocence**; it was related in a special way to His forgiveness. Christ's resurrection was an act by which God wiped out the false charges against Him; it was God's declaration of the perfect righteousness of His Son, the Second Adam, and of His acceptance of Christ's sacrifice (1 Tim 3:16).

- **Because He has been acquitted and declared righteous, this is also true for those whom He represents**. Thus, Christ's resurrection was a necessary condition for the forgiveness of man's sins (1 Cor 15:12-28). To be forgiven is to be identified with Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- **Key #3 - Christ healed this paralytic proving His deity and the paralytic went away knowing God the Savior!** This paralytic also received a new life, spiritually and physically.

In Luke 5:25-26 - Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

- ***Ephesians 2:1-10 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***

C.H. Spurgeon writes, "Well may our God be glorious in the eyes of His people, seeing that He has wrought such wonders for them, in them, and by them. *For them*, the Lord Jesus upon Calvary routed every foe, breaking all the weapons of the enemy in pieces by His finished work of satisfactory obedience; by His triumphant resurrection and ascension He completely overturned the hopes of hell, leading captivity captive, making a show of our enemies openly, triumphing over them by His cross. Every arrow of guilt which Satan might have shot at us is broken, for who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect? Vain are the sharp swords of infernal malice, and the perpetual battles of the serpent's seed, for in the midst of the church the lame take the prey, and the feeblest warriors are crowned."

> **(v9-13) BE OF GOOD CHEER FOR HIS TENDER MERCY!**

(v9-11) Matthew about Matthew – He answered the Savior’s call, “Follow Me” and his life was never the same!

> **Matthew was a man of:**

- **RESPONSE!** - **John 10:27-30** - *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."*

- **REPENTANCE!** – **Look what Matthew wrote, Matt 4:17** - *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Herbert Lockyer extols Matthew’s new life by saying, “The outcast was called by Christ to a better occupation, to better wealth than silver and gold, to serve a better King than Caesar.”

- **RECONCILIATION!** – **Notice the people he invited to his feast for Jesus, other tax collectors and sinners!**

We are told in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

- **Food for thought:** The Pharisees did not believe in eating with tax collectors and sinners. Many saints today still have the same idea. It doesn’t hurt to invite sinners to dinner because they are the ones who need to be reached for Christ. We need to have some contact with sinners.

- **Another tidbit, could the Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector be about Matthew? Maybe?** Let’s read **Luke 18:10-14** – *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

- **Have our lives come to this point of brokenness before God? I pray we have!**

(v13) “I desire mercy” – What is MERCY? (Heb. *hesed*, "kindness"; Grk. *eleos*, "compassion").

- **Mercy is a form of love determined by the state or condition of its objects. Their state is one of suffering and need, while they may be unworthy or ill-deserving.**

- **Mercy is at once the disposition of love respecting such, and the kindly ministry of love for their relief.**

- **Mercy is a Christian grace and is very strongly urged toward all men (Matt 5:7; 23:23; James 3:17).**

- **J. Dwight Pentecost** writes, “Mercy is God’s ministry to the miserable. It is both intensely personal and immensely practical. For when I am treated unfairly, God’s mercy relieves my bitterness. When I grieve over loss, it relieves my pain and anger and denial. When I struggle with disability, it relieves my self-pity. When I endure physical pain, it relieves my hopelessness. When I deal with being sinful, it relieves my guilt.”

- **Embrace God’s MERCY toward you!** Micah 7:18-19 - *Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

Also, Titus 3:4-7 - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

- **Our MERCY toward others:** Proverbs 3:3-4 - *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.*

- Proverbs 11:17 - *The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.*

- Micah 6:8 - *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

- There’s also the attitude of mercy in Romans 12:8 - *he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

> In a hymn John Newton the slave trader, who was saved by God’s “Amazing Grace” describes the transforming power of Christ:

*In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopped my wild career.
I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood;
He fixed His loving eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.
How can it be, upon a tree
The Savior died for Me?
My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled,
To think He died for me.*