

Home Group Study Material for w/c 28th June 2010

Matthew 9:1-8 The Healing of Forgiveness

Suggested questions for discussion – as usual please modify them as appropriate for your group

The passage is fairly straightforward, so please try to focus the majority of your time on application. Try to lead your group members to the point where they both see opportunities for making changes in their lives, and have the desire to make those changes.

1. *'Ice-breaker' question:* In my sermon I focussed on the four main players in our study passage. Which of the following players are you most like, and why? (Choosing more than one is okay!)
 - The paralysed man who was healed
 - One of the faithful friends who brought the paralysed man to Jesus
 - One of the teachers of the law who wanted to challenge Jesus
 - One of the crowd watching from the side
2. What sort of things have you been paralysed by in your life? What effect did they have on your life?
3. Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins first? Do you find it easier to believe that your sins can be forgiven (e.g. either when we repent in our own prayer times, or when we corporately confess our sins in a Sunday service), or that you can be healed from your particular 'paralysis'? Why?
4. If you're someone who is feeling paralysed by something at the moment, share your concerns and hopes with the group. If you would like to, ask someone from the group to pray for your release from it (either now or later)
5. Hopefully we all have friends who need us to take them to Jesus. (If not, you might like to discuss how you might go about getting some non Christian friends!) Discuss practical ways in which we can take our friends (and neighbours and family) to Jesus in 21st Century Lewes.
6. Are you a spectator or a player in Christian things? How can we become more of a 'player for Jesus'? Identify new ways that group members could be using their gifts and talents in serving our Lord at Southover.
7. How can we all come to church each Sunday better prepared and with greater longing to meet with our God and learn from him? What practical steps can we take before the service to achieve this?
8. At the end of your study, glorify God in a time of prayer (Matt 9:8)

Issued by Jeremy Bamber
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