

**The Gospel of Matthew “Take Heart”**  
**Matthew 9:1-7**  
**Jan 8, 2023**

**Matthew 9:1-2**

**1** And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. **2** And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

Good things often happen through the love of friends.

Jesus is addressing more than the perceived immediate problem.

Our biggest problem is not the circumstances of life, but the way we think and live within them.

**Matthew 9:3**

**3** And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.”

“Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”

You can only forgive a sin if the sin is against you.

**Matthew 9:4-8**

**4** But Jesus, knowing[a] their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? **5** For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? **6** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” **7** And he rose and went home. **8** When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

In performing this miracle, Jesus communicates his great love for the man and his first steps towards the cross.

Aggressive grace.

Forgiveness and going home go together.

**Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Has anything unexpected happened to you lately?
- As the paralyzed man is presented before Jesus, Jesus says, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” How is Jesus’ statement unexpected? What do you think the man was expecting?
- How does this interaction reveal a disconnect regarding what we think we need? Discuss the thought that our pressing need is not always our primary need.

- Is there something (ie. past experience, relationship, or present circumstance) that you wish God would change or would have changed? How is Jesus offering a different way to live within an unchanged circumstance?
- Discuss the idea that for Jesus to make this statement about sin reveals his commitment to go the cross. If Jesus goes to the cross to heal our deepest need, then what would it look for you to trust him regarding your current circumstances?