

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 63. Tax Collectors and Sinners – Matthew 9:1-13**

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This final miracle in the second group of 3 in Matthew 8-9 finds Jesus healing a paralytic and an even greater work – forgiving his sins! The self-righteous Pharisees react and accuse Jesus of blasphemy, claiming that only God can forgive sins. And they are right! Yet they refuse to confess that Jesus is God and then try to find reasons to further accuse Him of scandal as He goes on to eat with sinners. In these accounts Jesus is teaching us about the importance of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness. He values these things more than sacrifice.

- I. Jesus Forgives and Heals – vs. 1-8
  - A. He Saw Their Faith – Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
    - 1. Supplication and Intercession – pray for one another, believing – James 5:13-18; James 1:6-8
    - 2. Faith led to Works – James 2:20, 26
  - B. “Your Sins are Forgiven” – Isa. 33:24; 40:1-2; 44:21-22
    - 1. Blasphemy? Only if Jesus is not God
    - 2. Who, but God, can forgive sins? – Hallelujah, what a Savior!
  - C. “Arise, Take Up Your Bed” – Isa. 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19
  - D. They Marveled and Glorified God
- II. Jesus Calls Matthew – vs. 9-13
  - A. “Follow Me” – Luke 5:28; Phil. 3:7
  - B. Many Tax Collectors and Sinners Eat with Jesus – Matt. 11:19; Luke 15:2
    - 1. The Sick Need Doctors, not the Well
    - 2. Go Learn – “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice” – Matt. 23:23; Hos. 6:6
    - 3. Calling Sinners to Repentance – the Pharisees didn’t think that they needed to be forgiven or that these terrible sinners deserved to be forgiven
    - 4. The Pharisees – always sitting on the outside watching the feast – Luke 14:15-24
- III. Sin is More Serious than Sickness
  - A. May We Glorify God in Forgiveness, Healing, and Suffering – John 9:1-3
  - B. The Curse has a Cure in Christ! – Gal. 3:13; Rev. 22:3

## Cross References

### Mark 2:1-12

2 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, 11 “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

### Luke 5:17-26

17 Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. 19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. 20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”

### James 5:13-18

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

### James 1:6-8

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed

by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### **James 2:20**

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

### **James 2:26**

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

### **Isaiah 33:24**

24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.

### **Isaiah 40:1-2**

40 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins."

### **Isaiah 44:21-22**

21 "Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! 22 I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

### **Isaiah 61:1-2**

61 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

### **Luke 4:18-19**

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

### **Luke 5:28**

28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

### **Philippians 3:7**

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

### **Matthew 11:19**

19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."

### **Luke 15:2**

2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

### **Matthew 23:23**

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

### **Hosea 6:6**

6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

### **Luke 14:15-24**

15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" 16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' 22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

### **John 9:1-3**

9 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

### **Galatians 3:13**

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

### **Revelation 22:3**

3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.