

The Story of Jesus: 3 Occasions When He Forgave Sins  
(Lesson 58)

Introduction:

1. We are to give careful attention to growing in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Searching the Scriptures is the key to achieving this growth (John 5:39).
3. In this lesson we are examining "3 occasions when Jesus forgave sins."

Discussion:

- I. JESUS FORGAVE THE SINS OF A MAN AFFLICTED WITH PALSYP (Luke 5:17-26)
  - A. At this time the Lord's popularity was very high (vs.15).
  - B. Jesus was teaching in a house that was filled with people, including a number of Pharisees and doctors of the law.
  - C. A man afflicted with palsy was brought to the Lord.
    1. His friends could not take him inside because of the crowd.
    2. They lowered him down through the roof.
  - D. Jesus saw their faith, and He responded by saying that this man's sins were forgiven.
  - E. The scribes and Pharisees considered the Lord's statement to be "blasphemy."
    1. They knew that only God can forgive sins.
    2. They overlooked the obvious point -- by forgiving the man's sins Jesus showed that He is divine.
  - F. Jesus demonstrated His divine power even further by healing the man of his palsy.
    1. The man was brought to Jesus in a bed.
    2. He left Jesus carrying his bed and glorifying God.
- II. JESUS FORGAVE THE SINS OF A WOMAN WHO WASHED AND ANOINTED HIS FEET (Luke 7:36-50)
  - A. Jesus had been invited to eat a meal at the home of a Pharisee named Simon.
  - B. This woman, described as a sinner, washed Jesus' feet and anointed them with ointment.
  - C. Simon questioned whether Jesus was a true prophet.
  - D. After Jesus responded to Simon's comment, He gave this woman a special blessing -- He forgave her sins.
  - E. There were some present who questioned what Jesus did (it appears that they overlooked the obvious point -- that Jesus is divine).
  - F. This woman came to Jesus in tears -- she left in a saved condition in peace.
- III. JESUS FORGAVE THE SINS OF ONE OF THE THIEVES CRUCIFIED WITH HIM (Luke 23:39-43)
  - A. (vs.32-33) Jesus was crucified between 2 "malefactors" [thieves -- Matthew 27:38].
  - B. One of the thieves railed against the Lord.
  - C. The other man knew that Jesus did not deserve to be treated that way.
  - D. He asked Jesus to remember him, and he received a special blessing.
  - E. This man came in contact with Jesus at Calvary -- later that day he was with the Lord in paradise.

Conclusion:

1. On these occasions, Jesus forgave the sins of 3 different people.
2. By doing so, He demonstrated His divine authority -- only God can forgive sins.
3. Sometimes, questions are asked about why these people were not baptized.
4. The answer is simple -- Jesus did not give the Great Commission until after His resurrection (Luke 24:44-47; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
5. Let us not overlook the point that was made when Jesus forgave the sins of people while He was on earth -- He is God's divine Son.
6. The good news is that He still forgives sins.
  - a. He forgives the sins of those who obey the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16).
  - b. He forgives the sins of His followers as we walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
  - c. He forgives His followers when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9).