

Every Knee, Every Nation – Week 1: Authority Over Our Past– Forgiven

Main Text: Matthew 9:1-8

Supporting Texts: Psalm 103:8-14 | Isaiah 43:25 | Daniel 7:13-14 | Mark 2:1-12

Series Overview – “Every Knee, Every Nation”

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” – Matthew 28:18

We easily affirm Jesus’ authority *in heaven* but often forget His authority *on earth*. This series explores what it means to live under the real-time reign of Christ—His rule over our **past, present, future, and every sphere** of life.

Today’s Focus – Authority Over Our Past

If Jesus has authority on earth, then He has authority over **our failures** too. He doesn’t just reign over galaxies; He reigns over guilt.

1. Jesus Addresses the Deepest Need First (vv. 2–3)

- The friends wanted healing; Jesus wanted reconciliation.
- *“Take heart, my son.”* — He speaks courage and identity before healing.
- Sin is not merely a moral issue; it’s a relational one—estrangement from God.
- **Key Insight:** Jesus begins with forgiveness because that’s the root from which all healing grows.

Reflect:

Where do you ask Jesus for relief when He wants to bring restoration?

2. Jesus Acts with God’s Exclusive Authority (vv. 4–6)

- The scribes called it blasphemy because only God can forgive (Isa 43:25).
- Jesus doesn’t speak *for* God—He speaks *as* God.
- **ἐξουσία (exousia)** = the rightful authority to rule, not just raw power.
- Heaven’s authority kneels in the dust—God’s rule has come near.

Reflect:

How does knowing that Jesus has the *right* to forgive—not just the power—shape your trust in Him?

3. Jesus Confirms the Claim with Power (vv. 6–7)

- “Rise. Pick up your mat. Go home.” — three commands that re-create a life.
- The visible miracle proves the invisible mercy.
- As N.T. Wright writes, “*Forgiveness is the language of new creation.*”
- Forgiven people rise and walk differently—grace moves them forward.

Reflect:

What would “getting up and walking” look like in your life this week?

4. The Crowd Glorifies God (v. 8)

- Awe and worship are the natural response to grace.
- They glorified God because heaven’s authority had touched earth.
- The authority that healed one man now commissions the Church to reach nations.

Reflect:

How does worship—corporate and personal—show that you’ve been forgiven?

Living It Out – Modern Application

Personal – Confession that Restores

Name what’s been unnamed. Confession isn’t guilt—it’s grace in motion.

Family / Community – Practice Grace Out Loud

Speak forgiveness regularly. “I was wrong—please forgive me” is kingdom language.

Church – A Rhythm of Confession and Pardon

Create moments in worship where honesty meets mercy.

Action Step – Tangible Release

Write the sin you’ve been carrying. Pray over it. Destroy it. You’re not erasing it—Jesus already did.

Key Takeaway

Forgiveness isn’t a feeling to wait for; it’s a verdict Jesus has already spoken.

When He says, “*Your sins are forgiven,*” the authority of heaven reaches earth.

