

3. What did Jesus **see** that resulted in Him telling the paralytic that his sins were forgiven? What is striking about this?

4. What would the Jews of this time believe was the **basis for the forgiveness of their sins**? For help on this, you can consult the following Old Testament passages:
 - Leviticus 4:1-6:7. Especially verses 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10,13,16,18; 6:7.
 - Leviticus 16:29-34
 - Numbers 15:22-28
 - Deuteronomy 21:1-9

The writer of the book of Hebrews sums up the Law's teaching on the subject of the forgiveness of sins this way:

Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Knowing this principle of the Law, what conclusion would a Jew draw about **who Jesus is** once he realized that Jesus was forgiving sins?

How about a **disciple of John the Baptist** in particular? See John 1:19-34 for the testimony of John concerning this.

5. Did the paralytic or his friends **ask** to have sins forgiven? Did they bring an **offering**? Did he **confess his sins** before they were forgiven? Was he **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins? What does this mean?

6. Jesus **forgave** the paralytic's **sins first**, and then He healed the man's body. What does the order in which Jesus went about things teach us about our human condition and needs?

7. In verse 3, some scribes (and Luke tells us Pharisees also) accused Jesus of **blaspheming**. Why? See Luke 5:21.

The scribes and Pharisees have a very important ministry. Every time Jesus says something really important, they either try to kill him or accuse Jesus of blasphemy. Therefore, when you read about these guys cursing Jesus or trying to kill him, look back and see what Jesus just said. It was life-changing!

8. Jesus asks the scribes and Pharisees a **question** (but He does not give them the opportunity to answer it). What is the question?

What do you think **their answer** would have been if they had been given the opportunity to answer?

How do you think **Jesus** would have answered the same question?

9. Read Luke 5:17. It sets the scene for this event. **Who** was there? What are we told about the makeup of this group?

What was **provided to Jesus** (His humanity) in the presence of this crowd?

What did Jesus set out to **accomplish** with what was provided to Him on this occasion?

Hint: He is going to set up the scribes and Pharisees, and in fact everyone present, to realize something extraordinary about Him by using something else that would have impressed the people as being extraordinary.

10. Other men, in the Old Testament, had been given the power to perform miracles. Moses and Elijah for example. But had any man before this day been given the authority on earth to forgive sins? We will need to discuss the situation of the Levitical priests and of John the Baptist in this regard.

11. What **instruction** does Jesus give to the paralytic in verses 5 and 6 after He told him his sins are forgiven and after He healed him?

What instructions does the Lord give **us** after we are completely forgiven, justified, and made new creatures in Christ? For help on this one, see Ephesians 2:8-10, Ephesians 4:1-4, Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 6:3-4.

Verses 9 to 13

1. This same event is described in Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 5:27-32. Let's read these passages now and note any additional details that Mark or Luke give us.

What detail does Mark add concerning the tax collectors and sinners in Mark 2:15?

2. In Matthew 9:11, the Pharisees have a **complaint against Jesus**. What is it?

Who do they complain to?

What does this reveal about the scribes and the Pharisees?

Who answers their complaint?

3. Read the **answer** Jesus gave them in all three gospels:

Matthew 9:12-13, Mark 2:17, and Luke 5:31-32

What detail does **Matthew** insert concerning the answer Jesus gave that Mark and Luke leave out?
What is the significance of this?

This is a declaration made by the LORD through Hosea in **Hosea 6:6**. What is the book of Hosea about? Let's take a look at the big picture of what Hosea is about. [#Bible sheet on Hosea] Which kingdom was Hosea sent to prophesy to, Judah or Israel?

Note on the map provided where Jesus was when this event occurred. He is at Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. Was this location formerly part of the kingdom of Judah or the kingdom of Israel?

4. Eating with someone was a gesture of intimacy and fellowship in 1st century Israel. What did the scribes and Pharisees find **so objectionable** about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners?
5. Jesus used a **familiar image** to illustrate what was going on between Him and the tax collectors and sinners. What was it?

Jesus had already proven that He was a **remarkable physician** when it came to the human body. How?

6. Now He is addressing the **ultimate sickness** He came to cure. What is that?

Who are **the healthy** in this realm?

Who are **the sick**?

How do the sick (sinners) **become** healthy (righteous)?

7. As Christians, when we think of this ultimate healing, we associate it with receiving **eternal life** and becoming citizens of **heaven**. What would a **first century Jew** have associated ultimate healing with?

In this scene, who **was** getting healed, and who **wasn't**? For help, see Matthew 21:28-32.

8. What impact do you think all of this had on **Matthew**?

9. How does Matthew **show** that he understood how deadly **his spiritual sickness** had been?

10. He was conducting His ministry in the region that had once been part of the Northern Kingdom. The prophet Hosea was sent to the Northern Kingdom. How would the bridegroom image be particularly striking in light of the book of Hosea?

11. Is the bride mentioned in the Old Testament? Who is the bride? For help, see Isaiah 62:1-5; Revelation 21:1-14. See also article provided.

12. Why would this wedding party be drinking wine? See Joel 3:18-21; Luke 22:14-20.

13. What does the image of the bridegroom teach us?