

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: February 1st 2026

Talk title: On Whose Authority?

Passage: Matt 9:1-7

Speaker: David Lawrence

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus 'saw' the faith of the people who brought the paralysed man on the mat. What did Jesus see, and what does that tell us about faith? (You might like to also read the parallel account in Mark's Gospel (2:1-5) before discussing the questions).
2. Rather than healing the man in the first instance, Jesus pronounced that his sins were forgiven. What do these verses from Romans tell us about sin: Romans 3:23-25a; 4:24-25; 5:8; 6:1,2; 6:6,7; 6:12-14? (*Note: there's a lot here so consider spreading the verses around the group and then feeding back to the whole group*).
3. Speaking about sin in our culture is frowned on.
 - a. Why is this?
 - b. Is it possible to explain the Gospel without mentioning sin? If so how? If not, why not?
4. Read Daniel 7:13,14. What does this tell us about the ministry of Jesus as 'Son of Man' (v6) in this story?
5. In the talk David traced a number of 'lost causes' in the previous chapter (you might like to glance back through Matthew chapter 8 to remind yourself who they were).
 - a. In what sense were they 'lost causes' and what do their healings tell us about Jesus and his Kingdom?
 - b. David suggested that today's 'miracle' of the forgiveness of sins was the final piece, or even the climax, of this chain of lost causes. Do you think there might be a reason why the chain of healings and deliverance in chapter 8 climax with the forgiveness of sin in chapter 9?
6. The man jumped up and went home (7).
 - a. What effect did this have on the watching crowd (v8)?
 - b. Compare the crowd in 8:34, with the crowd in 9:8. What accounts for their different reactions do you think?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion. Pray especially for anyone you may know who thinks of themselves as a 'lost cause'.