

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

Entertain Thoughts

What will you allow your mind to think? What thoughts will you entertain within you? Will you entertain thoughts that are good and right and true? Will you entertain thoughts that are helpful and healthy? Will you entertain thoughts that are pleasing to me? What is the alternative? Some don't even realize that they have a decision to make about what they allow their mind to think. Some allow all the thoughts and opinions and values of the world to be entertained in their mind. Some allow their minds to be filled with dark and evil thoughts of the sinful nature. Some allow the thoughts of their mind to be far from me. Not only do they think evil thoughts, but they speak evil words and take evil actions. They live a life filled with very kind of evil. That is the natural and automatic result of entertaining evil thoughts in the mind. That is not the life that I will live. I want my mind to think thoughts that are good and right and true. I want my mind to think thoughts that are helpful and healthy. I want my mind to think thoughts that are pleasing to you. I want all my thoughts and words and actions to be pleasing to you. **That is very good.**

How can I think thoughts that are pleasing to you? **That is a very good question. Entertain thoughts that are pleasing to me. Take my word deep into your heart and mind and life. Allow my word to do its work in you. Allow my word to change your heart, transform your mind and guide your life. Allow my word to powerfully work in and through you. Then you will think thoughts, speak words and take actions that are pleasing to me. Then you will bring honor and glory to me.** That is what I will do, I will entertain thoughts in my mind that come from you. **That will be very good.**

Lord, thank you for forgiving and cleansing me of all my sins. Use your word to change my heart and transform my mind so all my thoughts, words and actions are pleasing to you. Use your word to powerfully work in and through me for your honor and glory. Amen

Promises

Said To Themselves

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

NIV

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

ESV

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?" Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up and went home! Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority.

NLT

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said Within Themselves

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

NKJV

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Stand up, take your bed and go to your home." And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

NRSV

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Whispered

Back in the boat, Jesus and the disciples recrossed the sea to Jesus' hometown. They were hardly out of the boat when some men carried a paraplegic on a stretcher and set him down in front of them. Jesus, impressed by their bold belief, said to the paraplegic, "Cheer up, son. I forgive your sins." Some religion scholars whispered, "Why, that's blasphemy!" Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why this gossiping whispering? Which do you think is simpler: to say, 'I forgive your sins,' or, 'Get up and walk'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both... ." At this he turned to the paraplegic and said, "Get up. Take your bed and go home." And the man did it. The crowd was awestruck, amazed and pleased that God had authorized Jesus to work among them this way.

MSG

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

AND JESUS, getting into a boat, crossed to the other side and came to His own town [Capernaum]. And behold, they brought to Him a man paralyzed and prostrated by illness, lying on a sleeping pad; and when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven and the penalty remitted. And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, This man blasphemes [He claims the rights and prerogatives of God]! But Jesus, knowing (seeing) their thoughts, said, Why do you think evil and harbor malice in your hearts? For which is easier: to say, Your sins are forgiven and the penalty remitted, or to say, Get up and walk? But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins and remit the penalty, He then said to the paralyzed man, Get up! Pick up your sleeping pad and go to your own house. And he got up and went away to his own house. When the crowds saw it, they were struck with fear and awe; and they recognized God and praised and thanked Him, Who had given such power and authority to men.

AMP

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Exclaimed... To Themselves

So Jesus climbed into a boat and went across the lake to Capernaum, his hometown. Soon some men brought him a paralyzed boy on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the sick boy, "Cheer up, son! For I have forgiven your sins!" "Blasphemy! This man is saying he is God!" exclaimed some of the religious leaders to themselves. Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked them, "Why are you thinking such evil thoughts? I, the Messiah, have the authority on earth to forgive sins. But talk is cheap—anybody could say that. "So I'll prove it to you by healing this man." Then, turning to the paralyzed man, he commanded, "Pick up your stretcher and go on home, for you are healed." And the boy jumped up and left! A chill of fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen right before their eyes. How they praised God for giving such authority to a man!

TLB

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

Getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over the sea and came to His own city. And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He "said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." And he got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

NASB

Matthew 9:1-8

Promises

Said To Themselves

Jesus got into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. Some people brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and lying on a mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, young man. Your sins are forgiven." Some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This man speaks as if he were God. That is blasphemy!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why are you thinking evil thoughts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to tell him, 'Stand up and walk'? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up, take your mat, and go home." And the man stood up and went home. When the people saw this, they were amazed and praised God for giving power like this to human beings.

NCV

Matthew 9:1-8

Said To Themselves

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Matthew 9:1-8

In Context: Read Matthew 9

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Jesus stepped into a boat, | crossed over | and came to his own town. | Some men | brought to him | a paralytic, | lying on a mat. | When Jesus saw | their faith, | he said to the paralytic, | "Take heart, son; | your sins are forgiven." | At this, | some of the teachers | of the law | said to themselves, | "This fellow is blaspheming!" | Knowing their thoughts, | Jesus said, | "Why do you | entertain evil thoughts | in your hearts? | Which is easier: | to say, | 'Your sins are forgiven,' | or to say, | 'Get up and walk'? | But so that | you may know | that the Son of Man | has authority on earth | to forgive sins...." | Then he said | to the paralytic, | "Get up, | take your mat | and go home." | And the man got up | and went home. | When the crowd saw this, | they were filled | with awe; | and they praised God, | who had given | such authority | to men. Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for forgiving and cleansing me of all my sins. Use your word to change my heart and transform my mind so all my thoughts, words and actions are pleasing to you. Use your word to powerfully work in and through me for your honor and glory. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you on guard against allowing evil thoughts to be entertained in your mind?

How are you being careful to kick evil thoughts out of your mind so they cannot flourish?

Why can you be sure that allowing evil thoughts to flourish will lead to evil words and actions?

When have you foolishly told yourself words that were not true or good, helpful or healthy?

How is meditating on God's word changing the thoughts you allow your mind to think?

When have you asked the Lord to forgive you of evil thoughts you have allowed your mind to think?

When have you been in awe of the power and authority and ability of God's word to work in your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow God's word to transform your mind so you can think thoughts that are pleasing to Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will use His word to help you to think thoughts that are pleasing to Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God's word is changing the thoughts you think.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow the Lord to use His word to transform your thoughts so they will be pleasing to Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, use your word to transform my thoughts so that they are pleasing to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use your word to transform my thoughts today?
