

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, March 1, 2015

Christ's Victory Command

Part 1 : "Be of good cheer ; your sins are forgiven" (Matthew 9:2).

1. Re-read Matthew 9:1-9 in a couple different versions of the Bible. What one-word descriptions do you think would best characterize the reactions of the following people to the things that happen in this story ?

- ... the paralytic ?
- ... the ordinary people in the crowd ?
- ... the scribes ?
- ... Jesus ?

2. Take several minutes to have a discussion of the concept of sin.

- Try, as a group, to come up with a definition of sin.
- Read Genesis 3:1-6. How do our sins today line up with Adam and Eve's sin ?
 - o listened to the slanders against God
 - o doubted God's love and His word
 - o looked at what God had forbidden
 - o lusted for what God had forbidden
 - o absolute disobedience to God's command
- Read some of the lists of sins in the Bible. How do these lists impact your thinking about sin ? How much variety in kinds of sins do you find in these passages ?
 - o Exodus 20:3-17
 - o Mark 7:20-23
 - o Romans 1:28-32
 - o 1 Cor 6:9-12
 - o Galatians 5:19-21
 - o Colossians 3:5-10
 - o 1 Timothy 1:8-11
 - o James 2:10-11
 - o Psalm 51:3
- Is forgiveness of sin the greatest need of human beings ?
- What does God offer, according to Psalm 130:3-4 ?

3. Based on the story from Matthew 9, and from other sources and experiences, how do you know Jesus has the authority to forgive sin ?

4. How do you know that Jesus does, in fact, forgive your sins ? As part of your answer, consider the following Bible passages :

- Hebrews 7:23-28
- Hebrews 9:11-15
- Hebrews 9:24-28
- 1 John 1:7

5. It has been said that in Christ we have been set free from the penalty of sin ; we are being set free from the power of sin ; and we will, one day, be set free from the presence of sin. Discuss your reactions to that thought. Is it true ? Is it helpful to you ? Do you find that as a follower of Christ you are experience a growing freedom from the power of sin. Why, or why not ?

6. If you were to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Himself saying to you personally at this moment, "Be of good cheer ; your sins are forgiven," would it make a difference to you ?