

**Episode:** One-Hit Wonders No. 7

**Narrator:** Homeless Man

**Primary Scriptures:** Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

**Story Summary:** A paralyzed man is healed by Jesus and gets to go home

**Location:** Capernaum, Israel

**Time:** Circa 28 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 5:25-26

Luke precedes this story by saying the news of Jesus healing people had spread widely, so crowds came to hear him preach and be healed of their sicknesses. He continues by saying Jesus was teaching while the Pharisees and teachers were sitting there. They had come from all over Israel. They likely had come to see if the rumors of his healing power were true, and if he was following the rules of the Pharisees. This was early in Jesus's ministry and he had not yet criticized the Pharisees or made enemies of them.

Somehow, the religious leaders, some of the crowd, and Jesus are in a house. The crowd outside is large. A paralyzed man is brought on a mat by his friends to get healed. When they can't get through the crowd, they turn to their imaginations. They climb on the roof, remove some tiles, and lower the man through the hole in the roof until he lands in front of Jesus.

It must have caused quite a stir, and you can imagine Jesus smiling at their ingenuity and perseverance. He says, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Immediately the religious leaders conclude that Jesus is blaspheming since they believe only God can forgive sins.

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus asks them why they are thinking those things in their hearts? Which is easier, to say sins are forgiven or to say for the man to get up and walk? Without giving them a chance to reply, he says that he wants them to know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Immediately, he heals the paralyzed man and tells him to take up his mat and go home. The man and the crowd are amazed and praise God.

This healing sets the stage for the ongoing conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. Are the leaders to conclude Jesus is a great prophet or God in the flesh? If so, will they have to give up their authority to him and revoke the man-made rules they have come to cherish? Are they to conclude Jesus is a sinner and his powers come through Satan? If so, how will they convince the common people who love Jesus and his teachings?

Matthew 9:7-8 point out three things. The healed man got to go home. It is very possible he had not been living at home for a long time. It must have been thrilling for him. The crowd praised God, which was to become a common result of the healings and miracles Jesus would perform. And, the crowd believed Jesus to be a man whom God had given great authority. They were not tied to preconceived ideas and privileges like the religious leaders. They saw miracles which could only happen because God wanted them to happen.