

“The Easier Thing”
7 October 2018
Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions

(take as many as you want, in any order)

Read Matthew 9.1-8; 2 Corinthians 5.14-21

1. Why do you think the paralyzed man’s friends brought him to Jesus? Were they expecting him to respond the way he did (v2)? How do you imagine the man/his friends reacting?
2. Why did the scribes say that Jesus was blaspheming?
3. If Jesus’ death on the cross was a self-sacrifice to destroy the power of sin and death (see, e.g., Rom 3.21-26), what does it mean that Jesus simply forgives the man’s sins here?
4. Which is easier, to say “your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Rise and walk”? Why?
5. What does it mean to be forgiven of sin? How does it change how you live?
6. The sermon suggests two lessons from this passage: 1) that sin, in our failure to love God and neighbour, represents the fundamental and primary human condition that Jesus comes to redeem, and 2) that Jesus’ willingness to heal the man’s paralysis in order to demonstrate his authority to forgive is an example for us, and shows us why we should not dismiss people’s conditions, contexts, situations, etc. in sharing the gospel of forgiveness.

In other words, just because people are *fundamentally* sinners does not mean that everything else about them – experiences, traumas, and/or identity markers like race, gender, class, dis/ability, etc. – is a matter of indifference or “unspiritual”. Has there been an area in your life where the action of God (or people loving/acting in God’s name) opened the door to allow a greater understanding of sin and forgiveness? If there are people in your life with whom you’d like to share the gospel, how could you first love them in their contexts, as they are? What would that look like?

7. Read 2Cor 5.18-20. How do you live this out?