

Matthew 21 “Sackcloth, Ashes and Fasting” Matthew 9:1-13 Hebrew 10:5-10

The human body of Jesus Christ would accomplish on the Cross what all of the animal sacrifices and all personal sacrifices of all people in history, could not accomplish; namely, the solution to the problem of sin, man’s redemption which solves the ultimate problem that man is born the enemy of God.

The paralyzed man’s friends brought him to Jesus so that He could explain eternal security to him since his physical problem was nothing compared to his spiritual problem.

But wait a minute, hold on here, who says: ‘Take heart or be happy’ to someone who’s been paralyzed for who knows how long?

Is that the epitome of insensitivity or what?

Actually, it isn’t simply ‘Take heart or be happy’ at all; the Greek says: ‘Be confident or have assurance.’

As believers in Jesus Christ, we can face great suffering and adversity and at the same time have great happiness when we realize that the suffering and adversity are only circumstances which do not have to dominate our mental attitude.

This man’s problem is not his illness; it’s a lack of processed biblical truth in his soul inventory. The Lord Jesus first takes care of his spiritual problem and anything God does is permanent or eternal, so we shouldn’t short-change God; anyone who doesn’t believe in eternal security doesn’t give God the credit He deserves!

Jesus can heal anyone because it doesn’t involve human volition, it simply requires divine volition but to forgive sins involves divine volition and human volition combined through faith alone in Christ alone.

Religion offers forgiveness of sin on the basis of human works and human merit which is of course, true blasphemy.

It’s easier for Jesus to heal than for Jesus to save.

Matthew was saved that day and he’s so full of joy with his salvation which causes him to know that he has eternal life with God after being shunned by society for years, he’s now fully accepted by God and that’s wonderful!

There are many Christians who wouldn’t have gone to Matthew’s party or if they did go, they wouldn’t have known what to do with themselves while they were there.

If you as a born-again Christian had been there that night, would these other guests have come in and sat down with you or would they have been scared off by your pious stares?

We have to have discernment, common sense and spiritual maturity to know what we’re doing and above all, we need to have gracious doctrinally-oriented poise, at all times.

We know Jesus was completely relaxed in this setting because He was eating and His attitude and act which followed is what led to a receptive audience and a great harvest that night!

Miserable people think that they can only be happy when other people around them are as pathetic as they are and that’s why they seek to drag everyone, they came down to their level of self-induced agony.

The religious were agonizing in their ritual while the Lord Jesus was calmly enjoying a genuinely relaxed state of grace.

There are prostitutes and thieves in Heaven right now because Jesus went to a party packed with sinners that night where He spoke life to them!