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Who can Forgive Sins

but

God Alone

(Luke 5:20-24).

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Who can Forgive Sins but God Alone?

INTRODUCTION: the words, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Have been used to support the theory Jesus is God. This is a perfect example of lifting a verse out of its context isolating it from all the surrounding verses and forcing the verse to mean something that it is not saying simply to fit a preconceived mindset that Jesus is God.

- **Luke 5:20-26:** And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."
²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?" ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Prior to this some men had brought a paralysed man lying on a bed to Jesus when Jesus saw the faith of the man's friends, he said to the paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven you." The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the Scribes and the Pharisees) believed only God the Almighty could forgive sins so when they heard Jesus tell the man that his sins were forgiven, they accused him of blaspheming. Jesus ask them, "What is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Rise and walk?"

Obviously it is a lot easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven" since there is no way to actually prove that they have been forgiven, whereas to tell the man to stand up and walk, if he didn't Jesus would prove himself to be a false prophet and false teacher to the crowds watching and to the Pharisees and Scribes.

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Jesus to show the Scribes and Pharisees that he had all the power of the Almighty God and the authority to forgive sins tells the man to "Pick up his bed and go home," and immediately the man picks up his bed and went home praising God. The crowd were naturally struck with awe at seeing such an extraordinary miracle and went away glorifying God. The Scribes and Pharisees treasured the Old Testament Scrolls and not only did they study them, but also read them to the people in the Temple every Sabbath Day.

Added to this they had witnessed this stunning miracle of a paralysed man picking up his bed and walking home. They of all people should have recognized who Jesus was, but even though they treasured the Scrolls and read them every day they were so filled with religious pride, hypocrisy, the love of power and the people's adoration that they were spiritually blind to seeing that:

- The promises Seed of the woman spoken of in (Gen. 3:15).
- The one Moses said was to come like him.
- The King all the prophets spoke of and said was to come.

The promised Seed of Abraham and the promises Seed of David.

- The Saviour the Old Testament Scripture reveal.

Was standing before them, there is no doubt the Pharisees and Scribes would have had tremendous knowledge of the Scriptures, but because of their selfish ambition and pride they were spiritually blind to the Spirit underlying the Scriptures, to the heart of God and to the Saviour standing before them that all the Scriptures speak of.

THE FOLLOWING IS ANOTHER ETERNAL AND GLORIOUS REASON JESUS WAS ABLE TO FORGIVE SINS

God the immortal, invisible, eternal Father the creator of all things and source of all life planned in His eternal mind before the world began that mankind's salvation would be through faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. From the beginning of Genesis, the faithful of the Old Testament looked toward the promised coming Messiah, the Christ, the King and Saviour whereas the faithful of the New Testament can by faith look back to the promised Messiah and Saviour. Salvation to eternal life has always been in Christ that is why Jesus is able to forgive sins he is God's plan of salvation forgiveness and redemption from the beginning of Genesis. God's forgiveness works through the Lord Jesus Christ. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary flows back to Genesis and forward to eternity this is why Jesus could forgive sins he is the Saviour everything a sinner needs for salvation is in Christ.

CONCLUSION

The words, "Who can Forgive Sins but God Alone?" Do not mean that Jesus is God, but that he is the Saviour of all mankind who God the immortal, invisible, eternal Father the creator of all things and source of all life planned in His eternal mind before the world began would come into the world through the birth of the Virgin Mary. Jesus healed a paralysed man proving he was sent from God and approved by God, witnessing such a great miracle should have been evidence enough for the Pharisees and Scribes to see that Jesus was who he claimed to be. The religious leaders of Israel should have recognized that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Christ that all the prophets speak of and that the Scriptures reveal was to come the promised Saviour of the world the perfect Lamb of God who laid his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

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