

So, in order to prove that the Lord could do the more difficult thing (forgive sins, and thus prove He was God), He did the easier -and more verifiable thing healed the infirmed man.

In so doing, the Lord proved that He was God. If only God can forgive sins eternally, and if He, Jesus, had)ust done that, then Jesus must be God.

But He also by this act declared Himself to be the Son of man. This term was the Lord's favorite designation of Himself while on earth (used over eighty times), and it was based on the appearance of the Son of man in Daniel 7:13-14. The concept includes several facets: (1) His lowliness and humanity (see Matt. 8:20); (2) His suffering and death (see Luke 19: 10); (3) His future reign as King (see Matt. 24:27); and (4) in this miracle, His being the God-and man Savior. The unifying element of the various facets of the Son of man is the relation to the earth, for the title links the Lord to the earth, both in His past suffering and in His future glory.

The Savior must be both God and man. Man in order to die, and God to make that death an effective payment for sin. Here the Lord claimed unequivocally to be God by declaring the man's sins forgiven; here He also identified Himself as the Son of man. He is God incarnate, God in flesh. And therefore, He is the only true Savior the world has.

B. Power that Pictures

As with others of the miracles, this one serves as a picture of several aspects of Christian salvation and life.

It pictures many aspects of salvation: the helpless man (see Rom. 5:6), the loving, persistent help of friends (see Rom. 10: 14 -15), and the total dependence on God to save (see Eph. 2:8).

It also pictures aspects of the Christian life. The new life was seen immediately. The paralysis did not gradually leave the man. He did not crawl, then limp, then walk. He got up and walked then and there, and proved beyond any doubt that he had full strength by even carrying his own pallet!

The dramatic proof affected the crowd in three ways: they were astonished, they stood in awe of God, and they glorified Him. May our lives do the same.

