

[Cobbey Crisler on healing with “good cheer” & forgiveness as in Matt. 9:2-8 & Luke 5:18-24
“Verse 2, Chapter 9: ‘We have a man in bed with the palsy.’ Can you imagine Jesus going by a man who had been that long without moving and telling him to “be of good cheer”? But there’s nothing Jesus said that he didn’t discern was needed. What that man needed, more than physical movement, was to be of good cheer. Jesus said, “Thy sins be forgiven thee.” Jesus knew at a glance the whole history of a case.”

(Verse 3). The scribes say, “This man blasphemes.” In order to get the healing, he has to eliminate the theological obstruction to healing first.

(Verse 5). He says, “What is easier? To say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?”

(Verse 6). “Because the Son of man does have power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy), Arise, take up thy bed, and he goes.” Book of Matthew, Auditing the Master: A Tax Collector’s Report, p. 42-43]