







Healing of the Paralytic Man...Jesus in Matthew's House

These two scenes are **back-to-back in all three Synoptic Gospels**, and they're **intentionally connected** both **narratively and theologically**. One reveals Jesus' **authority to forgive sins**; the other shows His **mission to call sinners**. Together, they make a bold statement: **only the sick need a doctor, and Jesus is both healer and forgiver**.

PASSAGE SETS






Miracle of the Paralytic	Jesus Eats with Sinners
 Matthew 9:1–8	 Matthew 9:9–13
 Mark 2:1–12	 Mark 2:13–17
 Luke 5:17–26	 Luke 5:27–32

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON CHART

Element	Paralytic Healing 	Call of Matthew & Dinner 
Setting	Indoors in Capernaum, crowded house	Capernaum, likely near shore, then in Matthew's house
Main Action	A paralytic is healed and forgiven	A tax collector is called, and Jesus eats with sinners
Faith Displayed By	Four friends (intercessory faith)	Matthew (personal, obedient faith)
Religious Response	Scribes silently accuse Jesus of blasphemy	Pharisees publicly criticize Jesus for associating with sinners
Jesus' Main Claim	"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins "	"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners "
Messianic Implication	Jesus does what only God can: forgive sin	Jesus fulfills the Messianic role of gathering the outcasts (cf. Isa 61:1–2)
Reaction of Crowd	Amazement and glorifying God	Criticism from religious leaders; silence or curiosity from sinners
Jesus' Self-Image	Divine Healer & Forgiver	Physician for the soul
Literary Function	Proves divine authority	Reveals divine mission

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THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

Shared Theme	Explanation
 Sin & Restoration	Paralytic: forgiven and healed. Matthew: called and welcomed. Jesus isn't just fixing bodies—He's reconciling people to God.
 Jesus as Physician	First, He heals a broken body and soul. Then, He declares that the spiritually sick (sinners) are His true mission field.
 Inclusivity of the Kingdom	Jesus honors the faith of desperate friends and welcomes the outcasts—tax collectors and “sinners.”
 Challenge to Religious Elites	Both accounts highlight conflict with scribes and Pharisees, who misunderstand God's mercy and resist divine grace.
 Messianic Authority	First, Jesus acts with divine power; then He explains His divine purpose. The two together reveal His identity as Messiah.

GREEK WORD STUDIES

Word / Phrase	Passage	Greek	Meaning
“Forgiven”	Mt 9:2, Mk 2:5, Lk 5:20	ἀφεώνται (<i>apheōntai</i>)	Perfect passive — “have been forgiven” (divine action already done)
“Tax Collector”	Mt 9:9, Mk 2:14, Lk 5:27	τελώνης (<i>telōnēs</i>)	Seen as a traitor, extortionist; socially and religiously despised
“Sinners”	Mt 9:11, Mk 2:15, Lk 5:30	ἁμαρτωλοί (<i>hamartōloi</i>)	Not just immoral people—socially and ceremonially unclean
“Physician”	Lk 5:31	ἰατρός (<i>iatros</i>)	A healer—used metaphorically for spiritual healing

MESSIANIC & PROPHETIC OVERTONES






Connection	Reference
Forgiving sin and healing = divine work	Psalms 103:2–3 – “...who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”
Welcoming sinners fulfills Messianic role	Isaiah 61:1 – “He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...”
God's preference for mercy over ritual	Hosea 6:6 – “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” (quoted in Mt 9:13)

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NARRATIVE FLOW

Order	Event	Significance
1	Paralytic lowered through roof	Public miracle with theological shockwaves
2	Jesus confronts unspoken religious thoughts	Reveals divine insight and power
3	Forgives sin, then heals	Prioritizes soul before body
4	Matthew is called	A “sinner” responds in obedience
5	Jesus dines with outcasts	Extends forgiveness and fellowship
6	Religious leaders protest	Resistance to the Kingdom’s wideness
7	Jesus declares His mission	“Not to call the righteous, but sinners” — <i>a gospel core statement</i>

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Truth	Reflection
 Broken people are welcome	Jesus doesn’t avoid sinners; He seeks them out—and calls them to follow.
 Faith takes many forms	The friends had intercessory faith; Matthew had obedient faith. Jesus honored both.
 Religious pride resists grace	The Pharisees couldn’t celebrate healing or repentance because they didn’t recognize their own need.
 Jesus is the true Physician	He heals our deepest wounds—not just physical, but spiritual and social.
 The gospel is for the outcasts	Jesus rewrites the guest list for the Kingdom of God—sinners and tax collectors are invited to the table.