

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 3rd May 2020

Take heart son, your sins are forgiven

Welcome to our service for May 3rd.

Once more we worship the Lord in our own homes but we can still have fellowship through our prayers and thoughts of each other in the Lord's presence.

The subject for today is, "Take heart son, your sins are forgiven" So let us take heart as we think about the words of the Lord.

Prayer

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dear Lord and Father, we thank you for all your love and care for us and pray that as we open your word you will bless us. We marvel that the creator of the universe should care so much about us and we rejoice in you and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

First hymn: How great Thou art

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GKhDCsLrUg>

Prayers of Praise, Thanks and Intercession

Pray as you feel led.

Second Hymn: I will sing the wondrous story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDPCFbAysBc>

Reading from Matthew 9:1 – 8 *Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man*

9 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **2** Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "**Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.**"

3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? **5** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **6** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go

home.” 7 Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

Third Hymn: The word of God is light in my darkness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQmj1RVA6XA>

Thoughts on the passage:

We live in a society that frequently regards at least some sins as trivial. At the time of Jesus most people regarded it more seriously. However I think those who were present would have been very surprised at Jesus saying, “Your sins are forgiven”. Today most people would look at the man’s paralysis and regard that as his greatest need.

Perhaps we should look at sin differently. In the letter to the Romans Paul wrote, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Rom 6:23)

Maybe we can look at recent events. The Chinese have not been very forthcoming about the origin of the corona virus but it does look as though a few people were doing something that was wrong. The consequences have been dreadful and a huge number of people have died. It should remind us that sin can have very serious consequences not just for ourselves but others also. Maybe not only in our own lives but in our preaching we should be reminded of this.

What Paul wrote was referring to something more serious and more certain. He was referring to death at the Last Judgement. We can remind ourselves that that is why Jesus came. He came to bring forgiveness and cleansing to sinners. Many people do not like the words, “All have sinned”, but it is still true.

The very religious in his congregation believed that only God could completely forgive sins. They were right and Jesus shows His divine origin by not only forgiving the man but also healing his disability.

We can be encouraged that we have a Saviour who brings forgiveness and cleansing by His death on the cross but He also cares about our physical problems and can find a way out of them for us. But we also have wonderful hope in Jesus of eternal life with Him and with God the Father. Sometimes this is the way out of a problem that the Lord has chosen for us.

Let us rejoice in Him and have our hopes in Jesus.

Fourth Hymn: The Lord's my shepherd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>

Let us end with a blessing from the time of Moses:

May the Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace

Amen