

## **Holy Vessels** ***Wholly Holy***

*One of the perennial questions the church faces is, “Who has to have the faith in order to get the miracle?” Is it the person who needs the miracle? Is it the one interceding on behalf of the need? Or is it the faith of the Divine that dictates an answer? Tough questions that no one seems to have the definitive answer for. And yet, miracles do still happen and God seems to step in when we make that leap of faith ... even if it's only a step.*

Matthew 9:1–8

1. Sin \_\_\_\_\_ all of us.
2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_: he knows our thoughts, emotions, and even our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Like all generations, this generation – this culture – demands a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Real faith is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitment***

- I'll be “here” next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll attend a watch party on Easter Sunday
- I'll invite someone to join me for worship next week

### **Additional Notes**

# Digging Deeper

## Week of March 28, 2021

*Holy Vessels: Wholly Holy*

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:1–8

**Introduction:** The question of illness, disease, disability, death, and misfortune are common concerns in scripture. The book of Job, for instance, looks at a string of disasters that afflict one family and the book makes a bold attempt to explain the cause of the many misfortunes visited on them. When the disciples came upon a man born blind, they asked Jesus if the man was blind because he'd sinned in the womb or whether perhaps his parents' sin was the cause. In today's passage, Jesus doesn't give us a definitive answer, but perhaps we have something to learn about the power of forgiveness ... and maybe even where that power lies.

1. Read Matthew 9:1–2. What are some ways that Jesus may have been able to tell that the men with their friend had an abundance of faith?
2. Read 9:3–8. How do you think Jesus might have known what the religious leaders were thinking?
3. Dr. Bill said that Jesus literally knows our every thought, emotion, and imagination. What does this imply about your prayer life?
4. In the first century, it was commonly believed that all misfortune, including health and disability, was caused by sin. We don't make that presumption anymore. Dr. Bill, however, pointed out that some misfortunes are caused by sin. Can you think of some examples? Can you think of any examples in your own life?
5. Why do you think Jesus granted forgiveness to the paralyzed man before he cured him of his infirmity?
6. Matthew said the crowd was awestruck – but not specifically because of the healing. What was the source of their amazement?
7. Read Matthew 16:19. What do you think Jesus might have been implying about forgiveness of sin in this passage? What are the implications of this in your life?