

Det er ikke ingenting

19. e. trinitatis, 25.-26.10.2025 i Kbh og Aarh. LGJ
Salmer: 3, #4, 171 // 2, 430, #7
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Matthæus 9,2-8

v2 **Og se**, der kom nogle til ham med en lam, der lå på en seng. Da **Jesus så deres tro**, sagde han til den lamme: "Vær frimodig, søn, dine synder tilgives dig." v3 Men nogle af de skriftkloge sagde ved sig selv: "Han spotter Gud." v4 **Jesus så, hvad de tænkte**, og sagde: "Hvorfor tænker I ondt i jeres hjerte? v5 Hvad er det letteste, at sige: Dine synder tilgives dig, eller at sige: Rejs dig og gå? v6 Men for at I kan vide, at Menneskesønnen har myndighed på jorden til at tilgive synder" - da siger han til den lamme: "Rejs dig, tag din seng og gå hjem!" v7 Og han rejste sig og gik hjem. v8 **Da folkeskarerne så det**, blev de grebet af frygt og priste Gud, der havde givet mennesker en sådan myndighed. (Matthæus 9,2-8)

1

Begeistret over "ingenting"

Barnet udbryder: "Se!" Den voksne forælder kigger op fra sin mobiltelefon, men der er ikke noget at se. Det er bare barnet, som bliver begejstret over ingenting.

Eksemplet fortæller noget trist om, at vi som er voksne, kan være blinde, overfladiske og overse det, der er småt og svagt i verden omkring os. Vi skader vore nærmeste, når vi ikke lægger mærke til dem, ikke påskønner og ikke ser, hvad de er glade for, og at de bærer på sorg. Men sådan skal det ikke være. Gud selv der siger i Skriften: *Glæd jer med de glade, græd med de grædende.* (Rom 12,15).

Et andet eksempel på at glæde sig over "ingenting" kan være, når du selv er begejstret over noget, som andre ikke synes er noget særligt. Fx dit gode helbred. Men er det noget særligt? Sådan har det jo altid i årevis med dig. Men du bryder ud i sang og tak til Gud!

Eller at du midt under svaghed og sygdom glæder dig syndernes forladelse, kødets opstandelse og det evige liv. Andre synes måske, at du er begejstret over ingenting. Du er jo syg. Måske døds syg. "Hvordan kan du være glad, når du er syg?" Men en sådan glæde er troens gave. Du har jo Herrens løfter om tilgivelse, opstandelse fra graven og evig salighed.

I søndagens evangelium opfordres vi til at se, og der fortælles, at Jesus så.

It is not nothing

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Matthew 9:1-8 ASV#

And getting into a boat, He crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 **And behold**, they were bringing to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed; and **Jesus seeing their faith** said to the paralytic, "Take courage, My son, your sins are forgiven." 3 **And behold**, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." 4 And **Jesus knowing their thoughts** said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? 5 "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk ' ? 6 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins "-- then He said to the paralytic-- "Rise, take up your bed, and go home." 7 And he rose, and went home. 8 **But when the multitudes saw this**, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

1

Excited about "nothing"

The child exclaims, "Look!" The adult parent looks up from his mobile phone, but there is nothing to see. It's just the child who gets excited about nothing.

The example tells us something sad about how we, as adults, can be blind, superficial and overlook what is small and weak in the world around us. We hurt our loved ones when we don't notice them, don't appreciate and don't see what they are happy about, and that they carry grief. But it shouldn't be like that. God himself who says in the Scriptures: *Rejoice with the joyful, weep with the weeping.* (Romans 12:15).

Another example of rejoicing over "nothing" can be when you yourself are excited about something that others don't think is anything special. For example, your good health. But is it anything special? That's how it always has been for years with you. But you break out in song and thanks to God!

Or that in the midst of weakness and sickness, you rejoice in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the flesh, and eternal life. Others may think that you are excited about nothing. You're sick. Maybe deathly ill. "How can you be happy when you're sick?" But such joy is the gift of faith. You do have the promises of the Lord: forgiveness, resurrection from the grave and eternal life!

In Sunday's Gospel we are encouraged to see, and it is told that Jesus saw.

Først opfordres vi til at se

Og se, der kom nogle til ham med en lam (v2). Det var noget særligt, at en lam mand havde venner, som bragte ham til Jesus!

Det er også noget særligt, når du sammen med andre bruger en halv dag på at hjælpe en ven ind i menighedens fællesskab en søndag, eller tager hen for at se til en, der har brug for at blive set og se livet sammen med dig, synge en salme og bede. Det er diakoni, kærlighedens tjeneste. Det er en gave at se den oversete og hjælpe de små og svage. Og det er en gave, når andre ser os!

Enhver af os har sådan en tjeneste i forhold til hinanden, overfor dem vi lever sammen med. Opfordringen til at se og lægge mærke til gælder hele tiden.

Den tjeneste bliver der peget på i evangeliet. "Og se!" Der kom nogle til Jesus med en lam. De fandt ham i hans hus i Capernaum.

I dag er Jesus ved Faderens højre hånd. Men han er også i sit hus, som er den kristne menighed. Det er overalt, hvor hans kirke samles om Evangeliet og Sakramenterne.

Derfor er der grund til at sige: "Se! Der er Gudstjeneste. Jesus kommer!" Og der er grund til at hjælpes ad med at samles hos Jesus Kristus.

3

Dernæst får vi at vide, hvad Jesus ser.

V3: Da Jesus så deres tro, sagde han til den lamme: "Vær frimodig, søn, dine synder tilgives dig."

«Deres tro». JESUS så vennernes tro. De stolede på, at Jesus vil tage sig af den lamme ven. Og da sker det underlige, at Jesus hjælper den lamme med noget, som mange i dag vil sige, at det er da ingenting. Han siger: "Vær frimodig, søn, dine synder tilgives dig." Hvorfor får han tilgivelse i stedet for helbredelse. Nogle vil jo mene, at tilgivelse er jo så let at give. Det er kun ord. Helt anderledes vanskeligt er det at helbrede. - Sådan tænker vi vesterlændinge.

Men de skriftkloge jøder tænkte modsat. Matthæus fortæller: *Og se, nogle af de skriftkloge sagde ved sig selv: "Han spotter Gud."* De vidste, at kun Gud kan tilgive. Det er det vanskeligste af alt. De anså Jesus for at spotte Gud ved at gøre det, kun Gud kan.

Men Jesus er Guds Søn, af samme væsen som Faderen, Sand Gud af sand Gud. Og menneske født af jomfru Maria. Pint, korsfæstet, død, begravet. ...

First, we are encouraged to see

And behold, some came to him with a lame (v2). It was something special that a paralyzed man had friends who brought him to Jesus!

It is also special when you spend half a day with others helping a friend into the fellowship of the church on a Sunday, or go to see someone who needs to be seen and see life with you, sing a hymn and pray. It is diakonia, the service of love. It is a gift to see the overlooked and help the small and weak. And it is a gift when others do see us!

Each of us has such a service to each other, to those with whom we live. The invitation to watch and behold applies all the time.

That service is pointed out in the Gospel: "And Behold!" Some came to Jesus with a paralyzed. They found him in his house in Capernaum.

Today, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. But he is also in his house, which is the Christian congregation. It is everywhere his church gathers around the Gospel and the Sacraments.

Therefore, there is reason to say: "Behold! There is a church service. Jesus is coming!" And there is reason to help one another to gather to Jesus Christ.

3

Next, we are told what Jesus sees.

V3: When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Be of good cheer, son, your sins are forgiven you."

"*Their Faith*". JESUS saw the faith of his friends. They trusted that Jesus would take care of the paralyzed friend, and then the strange thing happens that Jesus helps the paralyzed with something that many today would say is nothing. To the paralyzed he says: "*Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven.*" Why does he get forgiveness instead of healing. Some would argue: Forgiveness is so easy to give. Forgiveness is just words. It is quite differently difficult to cure. - That's how we Westerners think.

But the Jewish scribes thought the opposite. Matthew writes: *And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes."* They knew that only God can forgive. That is the most difficult thing of all. They considered Jesus to mock God by doing what only God can do.

But Jesus is the Son of God, of the same essence as the Father, true God of true God. And he became man born of the Virgin Mary. Suffered, crucified, dead, buried. ... He is the one who forgives. Therefore:

Det er ham, der tilgiver. Derfor: Sig ikke, at det er ingenting eller at det er det letteste i verden.

Jesus spørger selv: *Hvad der lettest: at tilgive eller at helbrede?* Og derpå helbreder han så let som ingenting. Som en bekræftelse på at han virkelig har myndighed til at tilgive. Den myndighed har han som Guds Søn, der blev menneske og døde for vore synder. Jesus gav sit liv for os. Derfor kunne han tilgive. Og derfor kan han tilgive i dag. Og det gør han!

"Vær frimodig søn!" siger han til os. Han siger det, fordi han ser dit og mit hjerte. Han ser mismodet og smerten. Det er langt større at få syndernes forladelse end at blive helbredt for en kronisk sygdom. For med syndernes forladelse har store følger. Hør, hvad David siger i Salme 103,3-4: *Han tilgiver al din skyld, helbreder alle dine sygdomme. Han udfrier dit liv fra graven, han kroner dig med godhed og barmhjertighed.*

Derfor bekender vi: *Vi tror på Helligånden, en hellig almindelig kirke, de helliges samfund, syndernes forladelse, kødets og opstandelse og det evige liv.* Og Jesus ser den tro, som han selv har skabt i os, så vi stoler på ham.

4

Vi får også at vide, at Jesus så, hvad de tænkte i hjertet

V4: Jesus så, hvad de tænkte, og sagde: "Hvorfor tænker I ondt i jeres hjerte?"

Er det skræmmende, at Gud kender vore tanker? Ja, på en måde. Han viser dem, hvad de tænker af ondt, og hvorfor det er ondt. Og på den måde er han jo god ved dem og hjælper dem. Sådan viser han også dig dit hjerte for at hjælpe dig.

David siger i Salme 139: *Herre, du ransager mig og kender mig. Du ved, om jeg sidder eller står, på lang afstand er du klar over min tanke; du har rede på, om jeg går eller ligger, alle mine veje er du fortrolig med. Før ordet bliver til på min tunge, kender du det fuldt ud, Herre; bagfra og forfra indeslutter du mig, og du lægger din hånd på mig. Det er for underfuldt til, at jeg forstår det, det er så ophøjet, at jeg ikke fatter det. (Sl 139,1-6).* For David var skræmmende, men også trygt.

Når Matthæus skriver, at Jesus kendte deres tanker, og at de var onde, så kan vi også tænke på, at Jesus engang talte til disciplene om deres onde hjerter: *Thi fra hjertet udgår onde tanker, mord, ægteskabsbrud, utugt, tyveri, falsk vidnesbyrd og bespottelser. Det er det, som gør et menneske urent. (Matt 15,19-20).* Og at han også har sagt: *Da nu I, som er onde kan give jeres børn gode gaver, hvor meget snarere vil så ikke jeres Fader i himlene give*

Don't say it's nothing or that it's the easiest thing in the world.

Jesus himself asks: *Which is easier: to forgive or to heal?* And then he heals as easily as nothing. As a confirmation that he really does have the authority to forgive. He has that authority as the Son of God, who became man and died for our sins. Jesus gave His life for us. Therefore, he could forgive. And that is why he can forgive us today. And he does!

"Be of good cheer, son!" he says to us. He says it because he sees my heart and your heart. He sees the discouragement, and the pain in our hearts. It is far greater to receive the remission of sins than to be cured of a chronic disease. For with the forgiveness of sins has great consequences. Listen to what David says in Psalm 103:3-4: *He forgives all your guilt, heals all your sicknesses. He delivers your life from the grave, He crowns you with goodness and mercy.*

Therefore we confess: *We believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy common church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the flesh, and eternal life.* And Jesus sees the faith that He Himself has created in us, so we trust Him.

4

We are also told that Jesus saw what they were thinking in their hearts

V4: Jesus saw what they were thinking and said, "Why do you think evil in your heart?"

Is it scary that God knows our thoughts? Yes, in a way. Jesus shows them their evil and wrong way of thinking. And in that way, he is good to them and helps them. This is how He also shows you Your heart in order to help you.

David says in Psalm 139, " *Lord, you search me and know me. You know whether I am sitting or standing, from afar you are aware of my thought; You know whether I walk or lie down, you are familiar with all my ways. Before the word is made in my tongue, you know it fully, O Lord; From behind and from the front you enclose me, and you put your hand on me. It is too wonderful for me to understand, it is so sublime that I cannot comprehend it. (Psalm 139:1-6).* Because David was scary, but also safe.

When Matthew writes that Jesus knew their thoughts and that they were evil, we may also think of Jesus once saying to his disciples: *For out of the heart emanate evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, and blasphemy. That is what defiles a person. (Matthew 15:19-20).* And we may add that he also said: *Since you who are wicked can give good gifts to your children, how much sooner will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him. (Matthew 7:11).* He says this to us to

gode gaver til dem, der beder ham. (Matt 7,11). Det siger han til os, som han har givet troen, for at vi må vide, at vi har brug for ham.

Derfor kan vi trygt at dele vore tanker med Ham i bøn. Både det, som er ondt hos dig, når du har gjort andre ondt, og det som gør ondt på dig, fordi du lever i en verden med lidelse og nød.

Og dermed bliver det en stor, stor gave, at Jesus ikke blot sagde til den lamme, men også siger til os: *Vær frimodig, søn, dine synder tilgives dig. Vær frimodig under godt helbred og i sygdom. Under alle forhold, vær frimodig! For du har en Herre og Frelser, som giver os tro, og som tilgiver os.*

Og da passer evangeliets sidste ord på os: ***Da folkeskarerne så det, blev de grebet af frygt og priste Gud, der havde givet mennesker en sådan myndighed. Amen***

whom He has given faith, so that we may know that we need Him.

Therefore, we can safely share our thoughts with Him in prayer. Both what your sins when you have hurt others, and what hurts you because you live in a world of suffering and need.

And thus it becomes a great, great gift that Jesus not only said to the paralytic, but also says to us: Be *of good cheer, son, your sins are forgiven*. Be of good cheer in good health and in sickness. Under all circumstances, be of good cheer! For you have a Lord and Savior who gives us faith and who forgives us.

And then the last words of the gospel apply to us: ***When the crowds saw this, they were seized with fear and praised God who had given people such authority. Amen***