

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for March 23, 2025  
That's a Great Question: Why do you entertain  
evil thoughts?

That's a Great  
**QUESTION**



*Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week*

### • CONNECT

- o Jesus often asked questions that revealed people's hearts. Can you think of a time when someone's question made you reflect more deeply on your own thoughts or actions?

### • GROW

*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.*

**Matthew 9:1-8**

- o Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- o What does Jesus first say to the paralytic? Why might this have surprised the crowd?
- o Why do the teachers of the law react so strongly to Jesus' words? What does their response tell us about their understanding of sin and authority?
- o Jesus asks, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?" (v.4). What do you think He means by "evil thoughts" in this context?
- o Read Psalm 139:23-24 – How does David's prayer about searching his heart connect with Jesus' challenge in Matthew 9?
- o Read Romans 12:2 – How does renewing our minds help us combat negative or faithless thoughts?
- o Read Philippians 4:8 – Paul calls believers to think about what is true, noble, and praiseworthy. How does this passage help us understand Jesus' challenge to the religious leaders?
- o What are some thoughts you struggle with that might be considered "evil" in the sense that they doubt God's authority, question His goodness, or undermine faith?
- o When faced with difficult situations, do you tend to think first about the physical problem (like the paralytic's need for healing) or the spiritual reality (his need for forgiveness)?
- o What is one way you can replace negative or doubtful thoughts with faith-filled trust in Jesus?

authority this week?

- **SERVE** *others*

- Spend time reflecting on the question Jesus asked: “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Take a few minutes each day to notice your thoughts. Are they leading you toward faith and trust, or toward doubt and fear? Use **\*\*Philippians 4:8\*\*** as a guide to redirect your thinking.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**