

The Gospel Miracles Suffering and Wisdom Acts 5:12-42

Read passage and then remind each other of what happened in the story.

Healing

Does the story of people being healed in Peter's shadow excite you or mystify you?

Ben spoke here about the difference between being descriptive and prescriptive - what similar dangers might we face, or have we faced today when it comes to praying for healing for others? How can we avoid turning healing into a set of religious rules?

Ben spoke about 4 prescriptive things we can take on board when it comes to praying for healing. Can you remember any of these? Look below and give Biblical examples for each where you can.

- Ask
- Have Faith
- Oil and elders
- Confession of sins

If there is not healing after these things does it mean we've got it wrong and need to try harder? What else might be going on? (link to God's sovereignty)

So does God even heal today, or is this reserved for Bible times? What are your stories?

Andrew Wilson says that prayer for healing is a prayer that is guaranteed to be answered – why is this? (hint, if groups are struggling - he is speaking about Jesus coming back, new heavens, new earth and new bodies!) How often do you think about heaven and what it will be like?

Suffering

When Peter shares the Gospel the Sadducees are furious and want to kill him! Look at the following verses and compare them to responses you might get when you tell people you're a Christian or share your faith:

- 1Cor. 1:18
- Romans 1:16-17
- 1Cor. 1:22-25
- 2Cor.2:15-16

The apostles get thrown in jail! What? Does God know what He is doing? Do you ever feel confused as to why things seem to be going like they are in your life and question if God knows what He is doing?

How can we deal with times of suffering – either through unanswered prayer, or things happening that we just can't make sense of?

Look at the example Gamaliel sets with his responses - experience, wisdom, common sense and theology. He also speaks prophetically.

Where do you see each of these at work in your life when you are questioning why something is happening you don't like or understand?

Finish by praying for one another – for those in need of healing, and those who are struggling with the **why** in their life.