

## James 5:13-16 Discussion Questions

### Discussion Supplement to January 29-30, 2022 Sermon

- 1) Last week you may have made a plan for how you were going to pray as a group/as individuals. If you did that, follow-up on your plans. What went well? What did not go well? Are there some practices you would like to see carried-on?
- 2) Invite your group to share stories of encountering the healing power of Jesus.
  - a. Have any of the group been healed before? Have they observed others receiving healing?
  - b. Have there been any times where teaching on healing or an experience of healing prayer have not gone well? In hindsight, what went wrong?
  - c. How might the instructions of James 5 explain what went right, or what went wrong? (i.e., James' wisdom was followed and it went well, or it was ignored and it didn't go well)
- 3) It is common for Christians to affirm that forgiveness of sin is part of the atoning work of Jesus. Not all Christians affirm that physical healing is also a part of Jesus' victory or that Christians today should pray for physical healing. Have a look at these supporting texts. What do they say about what we should expect?
  - Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11
  - Matthew 8:14-17
  - Matthew 10:7-13
  - Acts 3:1-16

- 4) Hebrews 11:6 says:

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

How does this passage shed further light on what James labels, "the prayer of faith"?

- 5) What is the connection between sin and sickness? Do you agree with Jason's assessment? Have you ever confessed your sins to others at the same time you have asked for healing?
- 6) Jason referred to the "Already-Not Yet" challenge of living in-between Jesus' triumph on the cross (D-Day) and the day that all of the effects of that triumph are fully realized (VE-Day). In these in-between times, we experience the in-breaking of the Kingdom (miracles, healing, victory, supernatural peace, power of the Holy Spirit)

and yet we do not experience the Kingdom fully (we still get sick, everyone eventually dies, we suffer, we battle our own sin). Where is your group? Are members of your group more "Already" people (you expect Jesus to miraculously break-into your experience) or "Not Yet" people (you expect Jesus to sustain you in the midst of suffering and challenge). What potential challenges emerge from our convictions? How can we support one another during the challenges of living in the in-between times?

- 7) If you are comfortable, take time as a group to pray for members who need healing.