



"Lord, if You had been here, my brother
would not have died." – John 11:21



Becoming a Healing Presence

4th Sunday of Epip

What healing can I provide?

- The disease of fallen humanity
- Sin disrupts and severs our communion with God, who is the Life-Giver:
- "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)
- *"For the transgression of the commandment was making them turn back again according to their nature; and as they had at the beginning come into existence out of non-existence, so were they now on the way to returning, through corruption, to non-existence again."* (St. Athanasius)

What healing can I provide?

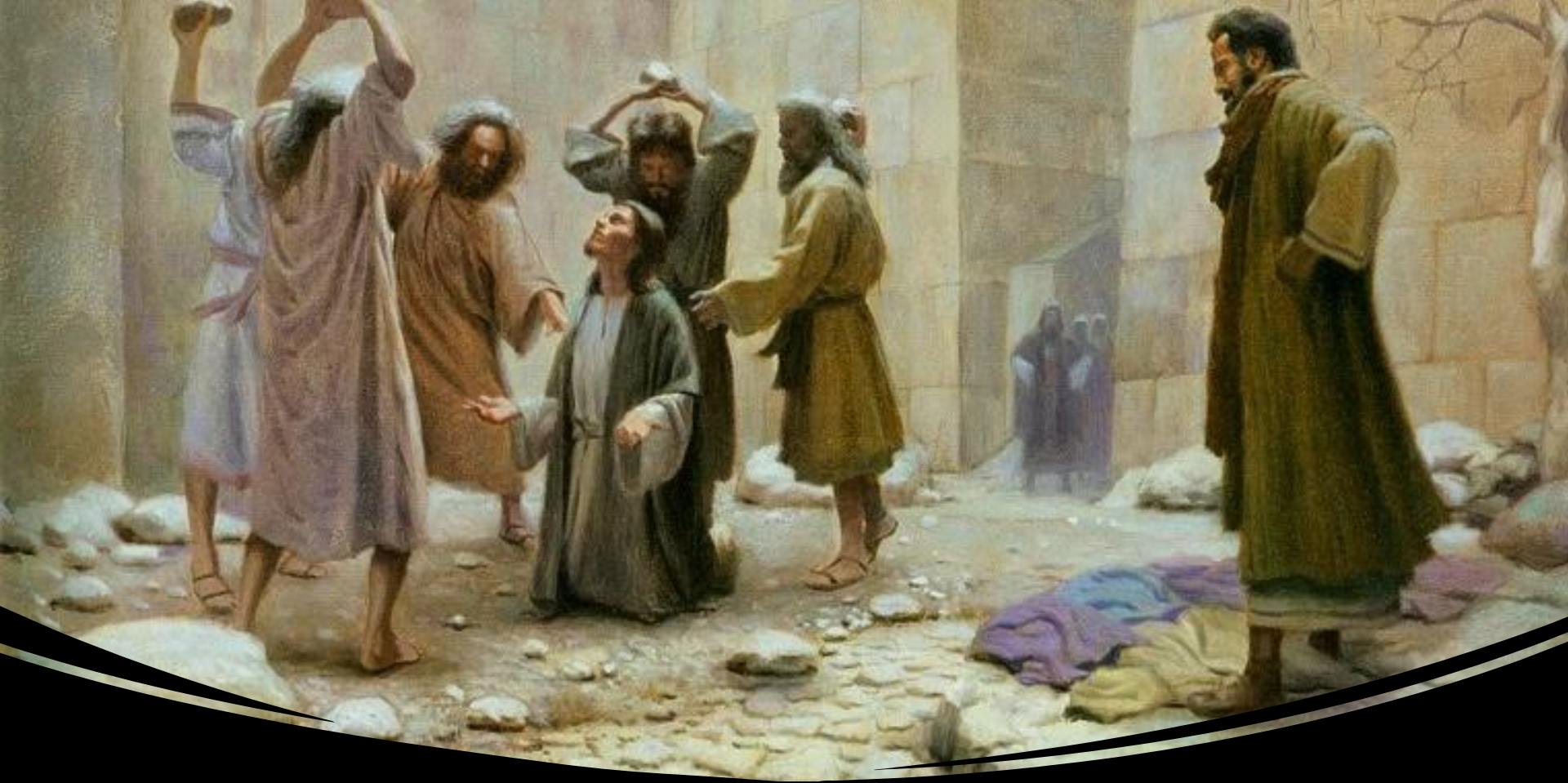
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- "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:19-20)
 - "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)



How can I be a healing presence?

Seeing Christ in you

- You can only give what you have.
- It begins with your own journey with Christ. A channel that has not itself received water cannot give water to another.
- Christ is the True Physician and Healer.
- "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)



Seeing Christ in you

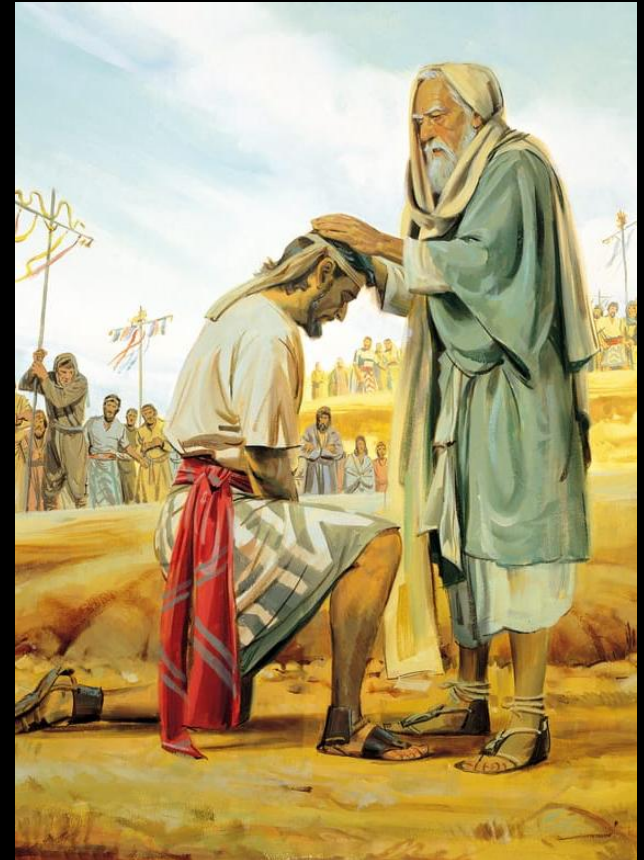
- Our presence can open a way for Christ's grace to touch another.
- Ex: Stoning of St. Stephen

Bring them to Christ.

- Seeing Christ in us is not the end of the matter; it is meant to lead somewhere.
- A healing presence does not only radiate, but also brings.
- Ex: Barnabas brings Paul to the Church.
- "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus." (Acts 9:27)
- A healing presence is often nothing more than the willingness to walk with someone toward the Church when everyone else has drawn back.

The effects of a healing presence

- Moses and Joshua
- "Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses." (Deuteronomy 34:9)
- Elijah and Elisha
- "And it happened, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, 'Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?' Elisha said, 'Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.'" (2 Kings 2:9)





The effects of a healing presence

- Potiphar's house prospered because of Joseph
- "So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, **that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.**" (Genesis 39:5)
- St. Timothy
- "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, **which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice**, and I am persuaded is in you also." (2 Timothy 1:5)
- "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance." (2 Timothy 3:10)
- Mark restored through Barnabas