

Acts 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

Analysis

The extraordinary scene - 'they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them' - demonstrates radical faith in God's power through apostolic ministry. The Greek 'kan' (at the least) shows desperate hope even for indirect contact. Whether shadows actually healed is debated, but the passage emphasizes people's faith and God's power. This parallels woman touching Jesus' garment (Mark 5:27-29), showing faith grasps available means.

Historical Context

Ancient understanding attributed power to saints' presence and possessions. While superstitious elements existed, the text neither confirms nor denies shadow-healing's effectiveness - it describes faith's expression. The public street healing demonstrated Christianity's compassionate practical ministry attracting crowds.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish appropriate faith in God's power from superstitious practices?
2. What does bringing sick people publicly demonstrate about gospel's holistic concern for human needs?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε	κατὰ	τὰς	πλατείας	ἐκφέρειν	τοὺς		
Insomuch	into	G3588	the streets	that they brought forth	G3588		
G5620	G2596		G4113	G1627			
ἀσθενεῖς	καὶ	τιθέναι	ἐπὶ	κλινῶν	καὶ	κραββάτων	ἵνα
the sick	and	laid	them on	beds	and	couches	that
G772	G2532	G5087	G1909	G2825	G2532	G2895	G2443
ἐρχομένου	Πέτρου	κἂν	ἢ	σκιὰ	ἐπισκιάσῃ	τινὶ	
passing by	of Peter	at the least	G3588	the shadow	might overshadow	some	
G2064	G4074	G2579		G4639	G1982	G5100	
αὐτῶν							
of them							
G846							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 14:36 (Parallel theme): And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matthew 9:21 (Parallel theme): For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

John 14:12 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

