

Acts 4:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Analysis

Barnabas's action - 'having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet' - exemplifies sacrificial generosity. The phrase 'laid it at the apostles' feet' demonstrates submission to church authority for distribution. Selling land (Greek 'agros,' field or estate) represented significant sacrifice - land was permanent wealth. This act introduces the contrast with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) while modeling authentic discipleship: all possessions subject to kingdom priorities.

Historical Context

Ancient economy was land-based; selling property reduced permanent income for one-time cash. Barnabas's sacrifice demonstrated genuine conversion - money's grip broken by grace. This episode's placement before Ananias's tragedy shows the contrast between authentic and counterfeit generosity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'permanent wealth' might God be calling you to liquidate for kingdom purposes?
2. How does 'laying at the apostles' feet' demonstrate trust in church leadership?

Interlinear Text

ὑπάρχοντος	αὐτῷ	ἀγροῦ	πωλήσας	ἤνεγκεν	τὸ	χρῆμα
Having	G846	land	sold	it and brought	G3588	the money
G5225		G68	G4453	G5342		G5536
καὶ	ἔθηκεν	παρά	τοὺς	πόδας	τῶν	ἀποστόλων
and	laid	it at	G3588	feet	G3588	the apostles
G2532	G5087	G3844		G4228		G652

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 19:29 (Parallel theme): And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.