

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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 land sold it and brought the money
G5225 G68 G4453 G5342 G3588 G5536

καὶ ἔθηκεν παρά τοὺς πόδας τῶν ἀποστόλων
and laid it at feet the apostles
G2532 G5087 G3844 G4228 G3588 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.