

Acts 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Analysis

Sapphira's death - 'Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost' - mirrored her husband's, confirming divine judgment pattern. The Greek 'parachrēma' (straightway) emphasizes immediacy. The phrase 'at his feet' - where she should have humbly confessed - she instead died in deception. The young men finding her dead 'carried her forth, and buried her by her husband' suggests joint grave, eternally linking them in judgment as they were linked in sin. This parallel judgment emphasized that both bore equal guilt.

Historical Context

That young men 'found her dead' before touching her prevented them from ritual impurity through contact with dead body. Her burial beside Ananias followed Jewish custom of family tombs while serving as perpetual warning. Early church fathers cited this account extensively as warning against hypocrisy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does equal judgment for both conspirators teach about individual accountability before God?
2. How should this passage affect your view of sin's seriousness in Christian community?

Interlinear Text

ἔπεσεν δὲ παραχρῆμα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῆς καὶ
fell she down **Then** **straightway** **at** ^{G3588} **feet** **her** **and**
G4098 G1161 G3916 G3844 G4228 G846 G2532

ἐξέψυξεν· εἰσελθόντες δὲ οἱ νεανίσκοι εὔρον
yielded up the ghost **came in** **Then** ^{G3588} **the young men** **and found**
G1634 G1525 G1161 G3495 G2147

αὐτῆς νεκράν καὶ ἐξενέγκαντες ἔθαψαν πρὸς τὸν ἄνδρα
her **dead** **and** **carrying her forth** **buried** **her by** ^{G3588} **husband**
G846 G3498 G2532 G1627 G2290 G4314 G435

αὐτῆς
her
G846