

Acts 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

Analysis

The paradox - 'of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them' - describes simultaneous reverence and distance. The Greek 'kollaō' (join) suggests close association. 'Durst no man' indicates fear-induced hesitation following Ananias and Sapphira's judgment. Yet 'the people magnified them' (Greek 'megalynō,' made great) showed public respect. This tension reveals healthy fear: reverence for holiness without reducing God to cosmic buddy. Casual approach to sacred things was impossible after witnessing divine judgment.

Historical Context

Ancient religious practice understood sacred/profane distinction strongly. The early church's holiness inspired respect from non-believers who recognized supernatural power. This parallels Israel's conquest when surrounding nations feared God's presence (Joshua 2:9-11).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does appropriate fear of God's holiness coexist with intimate relationship through Christ?
2. What does outsiders' respectful distance teach about church's distinctiveness from world?

Interlinear Text

τῶν	δὲ	λοιπῶν	οὐδεὶς	ἐτόλμα	κολλᾶσθαι	αὐτοὺς	ἀλλ'
G3588	And	of the rest	no man	durst	join himself	them	but
	G1161	G3062	G3762	G5111	G2853	G846	G235
ἐμεγάλυνεν	αὐτοὺς	ὁ	λαός·				
magnified	them	G3588	the people				
G3170	G846		G2992				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:47 (Parallel theme): Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 4:21 (Parallel theme): So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Acts 19:17 (Parallel theme): And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.