

Acts 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Analysis

The phrase 'kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it' describes deliberate, conspiratorial deception. The Greek 'enosphisato' (kept back) is used in Joshua 7:1 for Achan's theft, linking this sin to Israel's conquest crisis. This wasn't mere withholding but fraudulent representation. 'His wife also being privy' (Greek 'syneidyia,' conscious knowledge) makes this premeditated conspiracy, not impulsive lie. Bringing 'a certain part' while implying the whole exemplifies Jesus' warning about serving two masters.

Historical Context

Property sales were voluntary (v. 4), not mandatory. The sin was deception, not incomplete giving. The couple likely sought Barnabas-level reputation (Acts 4:36-37) without matching sacrifice. Ancient culture's honor/shame dynamic made public recognition valuable, tempting counterfeit piety.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does conspiring together in sin compound individual guilt?
2. What does 'keeping back part' while claiming the whole reveal about money's grip on the heart?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐνοσφίσατο ἀπὸ τῆς τιμῆς συνειδυίας καὶ τῆς
And kept back part of the price being privy And G3588
G2532 G3557 G575 G5092 G4894 G2532 G3588

γυναικός αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνέγκας μέρος τι παρὰ τοὺς
wife his And brought part a certain it at G3588
G1135 G846 G2532 G5342 G3313 G5100 G3844

πόδας τῶν ἀποστόλων ἔθηκεν
feet the apostles and laid G5087

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:37 (Parallel theme): Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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