

Acts 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

Analysis

The young men's immediate action - 'arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him' - fulfilled cultural necessity (Jewish burial within 24 hours) while removing evidence of judgment. The Greek 'systellō' (wound up) describes wrapping in burial cloths. The efficiency suggests divine judgment was understood and accepted. This swift removal also prevented Sapphira from being warned, allowing her independent test. The burial's immediacy emphasizes finality - no revival, no second chance, underscoring sin's deadly seriousness.

Historical Context

Jewish law required burial by sundown, especially urgent in Jerusalem's heat. The 'young men' (Greek 'neōteroi') likely refers to appointed servants, not merely age group. Quick burial prevented ritual impurity from spreading and removed the sobering evidence from immediate sight.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the burial's immediacy teach about sin's consequences and their finality?
2. How do you balance God's mercy with His justice when considering this judgment?

Interlinear Text

ἀναστάντες	δὲ	οἱ	νεώτεροι	συνέστειλαν	αὐτὸν	καὶ
arose	And	G3588	the young men	up	him	and
G450	G1161		G3501	G4958	G846	G2532
ἐξενέγκαντες	ἔθαψαν					
carried him out	and buried					
G1627	G2290					

Additional Cross-References

John 19:40 (Parallel theme): Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.