

Acts 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

Analysis

The temporal note - 'it was about the space of three hours after' - provided Sapphira opportunity to repent independently. She 'came in' ignorant of her husband's death, facing the same test he failed. The three-hour gap suggests neither premature warning nor insufficient time for reflection. God's timing gave her maximum opportunity while ensuring independent verification of conspiracy. This detail demonstrates divine fairness - both received identical opportunity to truth or maintain deception.

Historical Context

Three hours allowed rumors to spread in Jerusalem's compact quarters, yet apparently no one warned Sapphira - either from fear or divine restraint. Her arrival 'not knowing what was done' indicates supernatural prevention of normal information flow, isolating her for individual judgment.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of individual opportunity to repent demonstrate His justice?
2. What does Sapphira's arrival 'not knowing' teach about each person's accountability before God?

Interlinear Text

γεγονός	δὲ	ὥς	ὥρων	τριῶν	διάστημα	καὶ	ἡ	γυνή
it was	And	about	hours	of three	after	when	G3588	wife
G1096	G1161	G5613	G5610	G5140	G1292	G2532		G1135
αὐτοῦ	μὴ	εἰδυῖα	τὸ	γεγονός	εἰσῆλθεν			
his	not	knowing	G3588	it was	came in			
G846	G3361	G1492		G1096	G1525			

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