

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

γεγονὸς δὲ ὡς ὥρῶν τριῶν διάστημα καὶ ἡ γυνὴ¹
it was **And** **about** **hours** **of three** **after** **when** ^{G3588} **wife**
G1096 G1161 G5613 G5610 G5140 G1292 G2532 G1135

αὐτοῦ μὴ εἰδυῖα τὸ γεγονὸς εἰσῆλθεν
his **not** **knowing** ^{G3588} **it was** **came in**
G846 G3361 G1492 G1096 G1525

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