

Acts 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Analysis

Peter's direct question - 'Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much' - gave Sapphira clear opportunity to confess truth. The interrogative structure allowed yes/no response, removing ambiguity. Her answer 'Yea, for so much' repeated the lie, confirming conspiracy. The Greek 'nai' (yea) gave emphatic affirmation to known falsehood. Peter's question demonstrates pastoral confrontation's proper method: clear, specific, allowing confession. Her choice to maintain deception sealed judgment.

Historical Context

Ancient culture valued oaths and verbal commitments highly. Sapphira's deliberate 'yea' constituted binding testimony to falsehood before God and congregation. Peter's question followed judicial examination pattern, giving accused opportunity for truth before pronouncing judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Peter's direct questioning model appropriate pastoral confrontation of sin?
2. What does Sapphira's maintained lie despite opportunity for truth reveal about hardened hearts?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	δὲ	αὐτῇ	ὁ	Πέτρος	εἶπεν	μοι	εἰ
answered	And	unto her	G3588	Peter	Tell	me	whether
G611	G1161	G846		G4074	G2036	G3427	G1487
τοσούτου	τὸ	χωρίον	ἀπέδοσθε	ἡ	δὲ	εἶπεν	Ναί
for so much	G3588	the land	ye sold	G3588	And	Tell	Yea
G5118		G5564	G591		G1161	G2036	G3483
τοσούτου							
for so much							
G5118							