

John 11:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Analysis

Mary's words exactly echo Martha's (v. 21), suggesting the sisters discussed this repeatedly during Jesus' absence: 'If only He had been here.' Her falling at His feet demonstrates humility and worship, contrasting Martha's standing conversation. Mary's posture reflects her contemplative nature (Luke 10:39). Both sisters express identical faith and disappointment, showing how different personalities process identical grief. Jesus accepts both approaches—Martha's active dialogue and Mary's prostrate worship.

Historical Context

Falling at someone's feet was ancient Near Eastern gesture of respect, supplication, and worship. Mary's posture toward Jesus acknowledges His authority and deity.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the sisters' identical words but different postures teach about diverse worship expressions?
2. What does Mary's prostration teach about humility in approaching Christ with grief?
3. In what ways does your temperament shape how you approach Jesus in difficulty?

Interlinear Text

ἡ οὖν Μαρία, ὡς ἦλθεν ὅπου ἦς ὁ
G3588 Then Mary when was come where thou hadst been G3588
G3767 G3137 G5613 G2064 G3699 G2258

Ἰησοῦς ἴδουσα αὐτῷ ἐπεσεν εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτῷ
Jesus and saw him she fell down at G3588 feet him
G2424 G1492 G846 G4098 G1519 G4228 G846

λέγουσα αὐτῷ Κύριε εἰ οὐκ ᾔν
saying him Lord if thou hadst been here not had
G3004 G846 G2962 G1487 G2258 G5602 G3756 G302

ἀπέθανεν μου ὁ ἀδελφός
died my G3588 brother
G599 G3450 G80

Additional Cross-References

John 11:21 (References Jesus): Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Luke 17:16 (Parallel theme): And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Luke 8:41 (References Jesus): And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:

Luke 5:8 (References Jesus): When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

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