

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,	ὥς	ἦλθεν	ὅπου	ἦς	ὁ
G3588	Then	Mary	when	was come	where	thou hadst been	G3588
	G3767	G3137	G5613	G2064	G3699	G2258	
Ἰησοῦς	ἰδοῦσα	αὐτῷ	ἔπεσεν	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	ἦς	ᾧδε	οὐκ	ἔν
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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