

Proverbs 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

Analysis

Nearly destroyed in the midst of the congregation. The Hebrew 'kimeat' (almost/nearly) and 'raah' (evil/ruin) describe barely avoided catastrophe. Public disgrace threatened - sin committed privately almost became public scandal. This verse warns that secret sins tend toward public exposure. The congregation/assembly witnessing the ruin adds social shame to personal destruction.

Historical Context

Achan's sin (Joshua 7), David's adultery (2 Samuel 12), Gehazi's greed (2 Kings 5) - all private sins became public scandals, bringing shame before the congregation. Ecclesiastes 10:20 warns that even private words can be revealed: 'A bird of the air shall carry the voice.' Jesus taught that hidden things will be revealed (Luke 8:17).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What private sins, if exposed, would bring public shame in your community?
2. How does the potential for public exposure help you resist secret temptations?
3. What steps toward confession and repentance could prevent feared public disgrace?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָבָר	בְּתַת	וְרָא	בְּעֵבֶד	בְּכָל	בְּיִתְרֹן	בְּמִעֵד
I was almost	H1961	H3605	in all evil	in the midst	of the congregation	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

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