

John 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee?
mine hour is not yet come.

Analysis

Jesus' response—"Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come"—establishes crucial theological boundaries. 'Woman' (gynai) is respectful but formal, creating appropriate distance. Jesus' earthly family relationships are subordinate to His divine mission. 'My hour' refers to His appointed time for manifesting glory fully—the cross. While He will act, He operates according to divine timing, not human pressure.

Historical Context

The address 'Woman' appears again at the cross (John 19:26), forming an inclusio around John's Gospel. Jesus consistently prioritizes the Father's will above family expectations (Luke 2:49, Mark 3:33-35). His 'hour' is a recurring theme in John, pointing toward the crucifixion as the climax of His mission.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' response to Mary model proper subordination of even family relationships to God's will?
2. What does 'My hour' teach about divine timing in our lives?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῇ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	τί	ἐμοὶ	καὶ	σοί	γύναι
saith	unto her	G3588	Jesus	what	have I	to do with	thee	Woman
G3004	G846		G2424	G5101	G1698	G2532	G4671	G1135
οὐπω	ἤκει	ἡ	ὥρα	μου				
not yet	come	G3588	hour	mine				
G3768	G2240		G5610	G3450				

Additional Cross-References

John 13:1 (References Jesus): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 8:20 (References Jesus): These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

John 7:6 (References Jesus): Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

John 7:30 (Parallel theme): Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 12:23 (References Jesus): And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (Parallel theme): To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Matthew 8:29 (References Jesus): And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

2 Samuel 16:10 (Parallel theme): And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

2 Samuel 19:22 (Parallel theme): And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?

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