

John 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

Analysis

The woman's literal interpretation ('thou hast nothing to draw with') mirrors Nicodemus' confusion about new birth (John 3:4), showing natural inability to grasp spiritual truth apart from illumination. Her question 'whence then hast thou that living water?' will find its answer in Christ's divine identity and mission.

Historical Context

The well's depth (around 100 feet) required a rope and vessel. The woman's focus on physical impossibility reflects the natural mind's limitation in comprehending spiritual realities (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'literal' interpretations of Scripture prevent us from grasping deeper spiritual truths?

2. How does the Spirit overcome our natural inability to understand divine things?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| λέγει | αὐτῷ | ἡ | γυνή | Κύριε | οὔτε | ἄντλημα | ἔχεις | |
| saith | unto him | G3588 | The woman | Sir | nothing | to draw with | hast thou | |
| G3004 | G846 | | G1135 | G2962 | G3777 | G502 | G2192 | |
| καὶ | τὸ | φρέαρ | ἐστὶν | βαθύ· | πόθεν | οὖν | ἔχεις | τὸ |
| and | G3588 | the well | is | deep | from whence | then | hast thou | G3588 |
| G2532 | | G5421 | G2076 | G901 | G4159 | G3767 | G2192 | |
| ὕδωρ | τὸ | ζῶν | | | | | | |
| water | G3588 | that living | | | | | | |
| G5204 | | G2198 | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 2:14 (Parallel theme): But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 3:4 (Parallel theme): Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?