

John 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

Analysis

Jesus' command 'Go, call thy husband' redirects conversation from physical to moral need, exposing her sin. This demonstrates that genuine gospel ministry addresses not just spiritual thirst but the sin that causes it. Conviction of sin precedes reception of grace in Reformed soteriology—we must know ourselves as sinners before embracing Christ as Savior.

Historical Context

In patriarchal first-century culture, a woman's male relative would typically represent her in significant conversations. Jesus' request appears conventional but actually exposes her marital irregularity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why must conviction of sin precede genuine conversion and satisfaction in Christ?
2. How does Jesus lovingly but directly address our specific sins rather than speaking only in generalities?

Interlinear Text

Λέγει	αὐτῇ	ό	Ἰησοῦς,	Ὕπαγε	φώνησον	τὸν	άνδρα
saith	unto her	G3588	Jesus	Go	call	G3588	husband
G3004	G846		G2424	G5217	G5455		G435
σου	καὶ	ἐλθὲ	ἐνθάδε				
thy	and	come	hither				
G4675	G2532	G2064	G1759				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

John 21:17 (References Jesus): He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 4:18 (Parallel theme): For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.