

John 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

Analysis

The woman's response 'I have no husband' is technically true but deliberately evasive. Jesus' commendation 'Thou hast well said' acknowledges her literal truthfulness while preparing to reveal deeper knowledge. This shows how Christ's omniscience penetrates our half-truths and self-justifications.

Historical Context

Mosaic law permitted divorce but regulated it (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). The woman's situation—multiple divorces and current cohabitation—exceeded normal patterns and would have marked her as morally compromised in both Jewish and Samaritan culture.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we offer technically true statements that nonetheless hide deeper realities?
2. What comfort and warning come from Christ's complete knowledge of our circumstances and choices?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	ἡ	γυνή	καὶ	εἶπας	οὐκ	ἔχω·	Ἄνδρα	
answered	G3588	The woman	and	Thou hast	no	I have	husband	
G611		G1135	G2532	G2036	G3756	G2192	G435	
λέγει	αὐτῇ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Καλῶς	εἶπας	ὅτι	Ἄνδρα	οὐκ
said	unto her	G3588	Jesus	well	Thou hast	G3754	husband	no
G3004	G846		G2424	G2573	G2036		G435	G3756
ἔχω·								
I have								
G2192								