

John 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

Analysis

Jesus' revelation of her five husbands and current cohabitation demonstrates divine omniscience and prophetic insight. This knowledge serves pastoral purpose—not to shame but to awaken consciousness of sin and need for forgiveness. The phrase 'in that saidst thou truly' shows Christ values honesty, even when it reveals failure.

Historical Context

While five marriages seems extreme, possibilities include death, desertion, and divorce. Her current relationship outside marriage compounded her social marginalization, explaining her isolated water-drawing at noon.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's complete knowledge of our past failures both convict and comfort us?
2. Why is acknowledging truth about ourselves essential to receiving grace?

Interlinear Text

πέντε	γὰρ	άνήρ·	ἔχεις	καὶ	νῦν	ὃν	ἔχεις	οὐκ
five	For	husband	hast	and	now	he whom	hast	not
G4002	G1063	G435	G2192	G2532	G3568	G3739	G2192	G3756
ἔστιν	σου	άνήρ·	τοῦτο	ἀληθὲς	εἶρηκας			
is	thy	husband	in that	truly	saidst thou			
G2076	G4675	G435	G5124	G227	G2046			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:20 (Parallel theme): Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.

Mark 10:12 (Parallel theme): And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.