

John 4:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

Analysis

The disciples' astonishment at Jesus talking with a woman reflects cultural norms, yet their restraint from questioning Him shows developing trust in His wisdom. This tension between surprise and submission characterizes discipleship—we constantly encounter Christ doing the unexpected yet learn to trust His purposes.

Historical Context

Rabbinic Judaism discouraged men from speaking with women in public, even their wives. Jesus' consistent violation of this norm (here, with Mary and Martha, with the woman caught in adultery) was countercultural and theologically significant.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do cultural prejudices and norms sometimes blind us to gospel opportunities?

2. What does it mean to be surprised by Jesus' actions yet trust His wisdom without demanding explanation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπὶ τούτῳ ἥλθον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτῆς καὶ
And upon this came G3588 disciples her And
G2532 G1909 G5129 G2064 G3101 G846 G2532

ἐθαύμασαν ὅτι μετ' γυναικὸς λαλεῖς οὐδεὶς μέντοι
marvelled that with the woman he talked no man yet
G2296 G3754 G3326 G1135 G2980 G3762 G3305

εἶπεν Τί ζητεῖς ἢ Τί λαλεῖς μετ' αὐτῆς
said What seekest thou or What he talked with her
G2036 G5101 G2212 G2228 G5101 G2980 G3326 G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 7:39 (Parallel theme): Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.