

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	ἦλθον	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.