

John 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Analysis

They announce the woman was caught 'in the very act,' emphasizing irrefutable guilt. Yet their concern is not her sin but creating a dilemma for Jesus. If He shows mercy, they'll accuse Him of violating Moses' law; if He condemns her, they'll report Him to Romans who reserved capital punishment authority. This reveals manipulative religion.

Historical Context

Under Roman occupation, Jews could not execute capital punishment without Roman approval (John 18:31). The Pharisees hoped to trap Jesus between Jewish law and Roman authority.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do people today create false dilemmas to trap Christians?
2. What does it mean to defend truth without sacrificing grace?
3. How can you avoid using Scripture manipulatively?

Interlinear Text

λέγουσιν αὐτῷ Διδάσκαλε αὕτη ἡ γυνὴ κατείληφθη
They say unto him Master this woman was taken
G3004 G846 G1320 G3778 G1135 G2638

ἐπαντοφώρω μοιχευομένη·
in the very act in adultery
G1888 G3431

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