

John 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

Analysis

They correctly cite Mosaic law commanding stoning for adultery, but ignore that both parties should be punished. Their selective law enforcement reveals their true agenda - not justice but trapping Jesus. This illustrates how Scripture can be cited accurately yet applied hypocritically, a constant danger in religious communities.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 22:22-24 prescribed death for adultery. Stoning was the common method for this and other capital offenses in Jewish law, though by Jesus' time such executions were rare under Roman rule.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can Scripture be cited correctly yet applied wrongly?
2. What dangers arise when we enforce law selectively?
3. How do you ensure you apply God's Word consistently, not just when convenient?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	δὲ	τῷ	νόμῳ	Μωσῆς	ἡμῖν	ἐνετείλατο	τὰς	τοιαύτας
in	Now	^{G3588}	the law	Moses	us	commanded	^{G3588}	that such
G1722	G1161		G3551	G3475	G2254	G1781		G5108
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λιθοβολεῖσθαι·	σὺ	οὖν	τί	λέγεις				
should be stoned	thou	but	what	sayest				
G3036	G4771	G3767	G5101	G3004				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Matthew 5:17 (Word): Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.