

John 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

Analysis

John reveals their motive - 'tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.' Religion becomes demonic when it seeks to destroy rather than restore. Jesus responds by writing on the ground, perhaps listing their sins or simply creating pause for reflection. His silence demonstrates wisdom in the face of manipulative questioning.

Historical Context

Writing on the ground recalls Jeremiah 17:13 - those who depart from God have their names 'written in the earth.' Some Church Fathers suggested Jesus wrote the accusers' sins, though Scripture doesn't specify.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can you discern manipulative questioning versus genuine inquiry?
2. When is silence the wisest response to hostile questions?

3. What does this teach about engaging with those who seek to trap you?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο δὲ ἔλεγον πειράζοντες αὐτοῦ ἵνα ἔχωσιν
This But they said tempting him that they might have
G5124 G1161 G3004 G3985 G846 G2443 G2192

κατηγορεῖν αὐτοῦ ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κάτω κύψας τῷ
to accuse him G3588 But Jesus down stooped G3588
G2723 G846 G1161 G2424 G2736 G2955

δακτύλω εγραφειν εἰς τὴν γῆν
and with his finger wrote on G3588 the ground
G1147 G1125 G1519 G1093

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:13 (Parallel theme): O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Luke 10:25 (Parallel theme): And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Matthew 19:3 (Parallel theme): The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Ecclesiastes 3:7 (Parallel theme): A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Amos 5:10 (Parallel theme): They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.