

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	
δακτύλῳ	ἔγραφεν	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.