

Luke 11:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

Analysis

Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also (Ἀποκριθεὶς δέ τις τῶν νομικῶν λέγει αὐτῷ, Διδάσκαλε, ταῦτα λέγων καὶ ἡμᾶς ὑβρίζεις)—a nomikos (lawyer, Torah scholar) interrupts Jesus's denunciation of Pharisees. The verb hubrizō (reproachest, insult) indicates personal offense. The lawyers (also called scribes) were professional Torah interpreters, often aligned with Pharisees. This lawyer recognizes that Jesus's critique applies equally to them—they share the Pharisees' corruption.

His complaint reveals awareness without repentance—he admits culpability ('us also') but objects to being publicly exposed rather than repenting. This epitomizes religious pride: concerned about reputation, not righteousness. Jesus's response (vv.46-52) proves the lawyer's guilt, pronouncing three additional woes specifically targeting the legal scholars.

Historical Context

Lawyers (scribes) were professional Torah interpreters who copied Scripture, taught in synagogues, and served on the Sanhedrin. Their authority derived from mastery of written and oral law. While Pharisees were a religious party emphasizing Torah observance, lawyers were the scholarly class interpreting Torah. Many belonged to both groups.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you typically respond when convicted of sin—with defensive self-justification or humble repentance?
2. What does this lawyer's objection to 'reproach' reveal about prioritizing reputation over righteousness?
3. In what ways might you be more concerned about being exposed than about actual transformation?

Interlinear Text

Ἀποκριθεὶς	δέ	τις	τῶν	νομικῶν	λέγων	αὐτῷ
answered	Then	one	G3588	of the lawyers	and said	unto him
G611	G1161	G5100		G3544	G3004	G846
Διδάσκαλε	ταῦτα	λέγων	καὶ	ἡμᾶς	ὕβριζεις	
Master	thus	and said	also	us	thou reproachest	
G1320	G5023	G3004	G2532	G2248	G5195	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:10 (Word): To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.