

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 ὑβρίζεις
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.