

Luke 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out.

Analysis

And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out—

The third servant suffers even worse treatment: "wounded" (τραυματίσαντες, traumatisantes, injured, inflicting wounds) and "cast out" (ἐξέβαλον, exebalon, violently expelled). The escalation continues—from beating, to shameful treatment, to actual wounding. The casting out suggests expulsion from the vineyard itself, adding territorial claim to the rebellion. The tenants now act as if they own the property and can expel the owner's representatives.

The threefold sending of servants emphasizes God's extraordinary patience and the tenants' complete incorrigibility. In Jewish thought, threefold repetition established a matter firmly (Deuteronomy 19:15). Three servants, three rejections—the pattern is confirmed. The tenants are without excuse. Yet despite this escalating violence, the owner continues to reach out (v. 13), demonstrating mercy that exceeds all human reason. This parable exposes how religious leaders can become so invested in their positions that they violently reject anyone challenging their authority, even God's own messengers.

Historical Context

The wounding and casting out intensifies the prophetic suffering motif. Uriah the prophet was killed by King Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 26:20-23). Zechariah was murdered in the temple courts (2 Chronicles 24:20-21, Matthew 23:35). The prophets were often driven out of Jerusalem, forced to prophesy from exile or

hiding. This treatment culminated in John the Baptist's beheading (Luke 9:9) and would soon climax in Jesus' crucifixion "outside the gate" (Hebrews 13:12)—the ultimate "casting out" of God's messenger.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the threefold sending of servants establish the certainty of the tenants' guilt?
2. What does the escalating violence reveal about the nature of rebellion against God?
3. Why does rejection of God's word often lead to persecution of God's messengers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ προσέθετο πέμψαι· τρίτον οἱ δὲ καὶ τοῦτον
And again he sent a third G3588 and And him
G2532 G4369 G3992 G5154 G1161 G2532 G5126

τραυματίσαντες ἐξέβαλον
they wounded and cast him out
G5135 G1544

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