

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
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τραυματίσαντες	ἐξέβαλον						
they wounded	and cast him out						
G5135	G1544						

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