

Luke 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be our's.

Analysis

But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be our's—The tenants recognize the son's identity (οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ κληρονόμος, houtos estin ho klēronomos, "this is the heir") but respond with murderous conspiracy. Their reasoning (διελογίζοντο, dielogizonto) reveals calculated evil, not impulsive violence. They understand the inheritance law: kill the heir and they might claim the property by occupancy.

The phrase "let us kill" (ἀποκτείνωμεν, apokteinōmen) exposes the depth of their rebellion—they will murder to maintain control. "That the inheritance may be ours" (ἡμῶν γένηται ἡ κληρονομία, hēmōn genētai hē klēronomia) reveals their delusion: they think eliminating the heir will transfer ownership to them. This perfectly describes the Sanhedrin's reasoning about Jesus: recognize His claims, fear losing their position (John 11:48), and plot His murder (John 11:53). By killing God's Son, they believed they could preserve their religious monopoly. Their recognition of Jesus' identity makes their guilt absolute—this is knowing, willful rejection.

Historical Context

The parable predicts Jesus' crucifixion with stunning precision. The Sanhedrin acknowledged Jesus' messianic claims (Matthew 26:63-66) but condemned Him anyway. Caiaphas declared, "It is expedient for us, that one man should die for the

people" (John 11:50)—exactly the reasoning of the wicked tenants. They killed the heir to preserve their position, but their murder brought the very judgment they sought to avoid. Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD, ending the religious system the leaders tried to protect by killing Jesus.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing Jesus' identity without submitting to Him represent the worst form of rebellion?
2. What does the tenants' delusional reasoning teach about the blindness that sin produces?
3. In what ways do people today acknowledge Jesus' claims while still rejecting His authority?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ἰδόντες | δὲ | αὐτόν | οἱ | γεωργοὶ | διελογίζοντο | πρὸς |
| saw | But | him | G3588 | when the husbandmen | they reasoned | among |
| G1492 | G1161 | G846 | | G1092 | G1260 | G4314 |
| ἑαυτοὺς, | λέγοντες | Οὗτός | ἐστίν | ὁ | κληρονόμος· | δεῦτε |
| themselves | saying | This | is | G3588 | the heir | come |
| G1438 | G3004 | G3778 | G2076 | | G2818 | G1205 |
| ἀποκτείνωμεν | αὐτόν | ἵνα | ἡμῶν | γένηται | ἡ | κληρονομία |
| let us kill | him | that | ours | may be | G3588 | the inheritance |
| G615 | G846 | G2443 | G2257 | G1096 | | G2817 |

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:17 (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

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