

Luke 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

Analysis

So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

The murder is stated simply: "cast him out" (ἐκβαλόντες, ekbalontes) and "killed" (ἀπέκτειναν, apekteinan). Casting him "out of the vineyard" prophetically corresponds to Jesus' crucifixion "outside the gate" (Hebrews 13:12)—executed beyond Jerusalem's walls as a criminal. The tenants' crime is complete: they've murdered the beloved son to steal the inheritance.

Jesus then poses the rhetorical question: "What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?" (τί οὖν ποιήσει αὐτοῖς ὁ κύριος τοῦ ἀμπελῶνος, ti oun poiēsei autois ho kyrios tou ampelōnos). The question forces the audience to pronounce judgment on the tenants—and unknowingly on themselves. The "therefore" (οὖν, oun) indicates necessary consequence. Justice demands response to such heinous crime. By making the audience answer, Jesus ensures they cannot later claim the judgment was unfair—they themselves acknowledge its justice.

Historical Context

Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled this prophecy precisely. The Sanhedrin handed Jesus to Pilate for execution (Luke 23:1-25). He was crucified at Golgotha, "outside the gate," treated as a cursed criminal (Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13). The religious leaders believed killing Jesus would end the threat to their authority. Instead, His resurrection vindicated His claims, and His death became the very

means of salvation. The judgment Jesus predicted came in 70 AD when Rome destroyed Jerusalem—the vineyard given to others (Gentile believers grafted into God's people, Romans 11:17-24).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' crucifixion "outside the gate" fulfill both the parable and the prophetic pattern of rejected messengers?
2. What does the question "What shall the lord do?" teach about the necessity of divine judgment for such rebellion?
3. Why is killing the son the climactic sin that brings inevitable judgment?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐκβαλόντες	αὐτοῖς	ἐξω	τοῦ	ἀμπελῶνος	ἀπέκτειναν
So	they cast	him	out of	G3588	of the vineyard	and killed
G2532	G1544	G846	G1854		G290	G615
τί	οὖν	ποιήσει	αὐτοῖς	ό	κύριος	τοῦ
him What	therefore	do	him	G3588	the lord	G3588
G5101	G3767	G4160	G846		G2962	
ἀμπελῶνος						
of the vineyard						
G290						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

