

# Mark 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty.

## Analysis

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**They caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty**—The escalating violence begins. Rather than rendering fruit, the tenants assault (δέρω, dero, to flay or thrash) the servant and send him away kenos (κενός, empty-handed). This is open rebellion, not mere negligence.

Israel's treatment of God's prophets is condensed into brutal brevity. The servants came seeking fruit; they received violence. This is the pattern of Isaiah imprisoned, Jeremiah thrown into cisterns, prophets sown asunder (Hebrews 11:37). The beating reveals that rejecting God's word requires brutalizing God's messengers—truth and its bearers cannot be separated.

## Historical Context

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The Old Testament records persistent persecution of prophets: Jeremiah beaten and imprisoned (Jeremiah 20:2, 37:15), Zechariah stoned in the temple court (2 Chronicles 24:20-21), tradition holds Isaiah was sown in two under Manasseh. Jesus later declared, 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets' (Matthew 23:37), confirming this historical pattern.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does violence against God's messengers reveal the depth of human rebellion against divine authority?
2. What does it cost you to hear and obey prophetic truth that exposes your unfaithfulness?
3. How do you respond when God's word arrives with demands rather than affirmations?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	λαβόντες	αὐτὸν	ἔδειραν	καὶ	ἀπέστειλαν	κενόν
G3588	And	they caught	him	him and beat	and	sent him away	empty
G1161		G2983	G846	G1194	G2532	G649	G2756

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 7:52** (Parallel theme): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

**Jeremiah 29:26** (Parallel theme): The LORD hath made thee priest in the stead of Jehoiada the priest, that ye should be officers in the house of the LORD, for every man that is mad, and maketh himself a prophet, that thou shouldest put him in prison, and in the stocks.

**Nehemiah 9:26** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

**1 Thessalonians 2:15** (Parallel theme): Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

**2 Chronicles 36:16** (Parallel theme): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

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