

Mark 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.

Analysis

Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved—The climactic *agapētos* (ἀγαπητός, beloved) echoes God's declaration at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11) and transfiguration (9:7). **He sent him also last unto them** (ἔσχατον, eschaton, finally, last of all)—this is God's ultimate revelation, beyond which no further messenger comes. **They will reverence my son** (ἐντρέπω, entrepō, to respect, regard with shame)—the father's expectation, tragically misplaced.

This verse is the heart of Christian theology: after all the prophets, God sends His unique, beloved Son as the final messenger. The 'therefore' connects to previous rejection—incredibly, despite servant-murders, the father risks his son. This reveals both Christ's supreme dignity (beyond all prophets) and the Father's incomprehensible love. That the father expects 'reverence' for the son establishes the tenants' inexcusable guilt when they kill him.

Historical Context

Written around AD 65-70, Mark's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the 'beloved Son' (1:11, 9:7, 12:6). This parable, delivered during Passion Week just days before the crucifixion, is Jesus' clear claim to unique divine sonship. The religious leaders understood perfectly—He claimed to be God's final, ultimate revelation, superseding all prophets, which is why 'they sought to lay hold on him' (verse 12).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the father's sending of his 'beloved son' reveal the height of God's love and the depth of human depravity in rejecting Him?
2. What makes Jesus categorically different from all previous prophets, and why does this demand a different response?
3. How do you 'reverence' the Son—with mere acknowledgment or with the worship and obedience due God's beloved?

Interlinear Text

ἔτι οὖν ἔναντινον, ἔχων, ἀγαπητὸν αὐτοὺς ἀπέστειλεν
yet therefore one son Having wellbeloved him he sent
G2089 G3767 G1520 G5207 G2192 G27 G846 G649

καὶ αὐτοὺς πρὸς αὐτοὺς ἔσχατον λέγων ὅτι
also him unto him last saying G3754
G2532 G846 G4314 G846 G2078 G3004

Ἐντραπήσονται τὸν νιόν μου
They will reverence son my
G1788 G3588 G5207 G3450

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 3:17 (Love): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John 1:34 (Parallel theme): And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

