

Matthew 21:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

Analysis

And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it—The parable shifts from two sons to wicked tenants. The vineyard owner (God) expects fruit (ὁ καίρος τῶν καρπῶν, ho kairos tōn karpōn—the season of fruits). His servants (τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ, tous doulous autou) are the prophets sent to Israel.

God's covenant with Israel wasn't arbitrary favoritism but purposeful stewardship—they were to produce righteousness, justice, and knowledge of God for the nations (Isa 5:1-7). The vineyard imagery evokes Isaiah's song of the vineyard, ending in judgment on fruitless Israel. God's patience extends seasons, but eventually demands accountability.

Historical Context

Isaiah 5:1-7 established vineyard as metaphor for Israel: 'the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel.' God planted, protected, and cultivated them through the Law and Prophets, expecting the fruit of righteousness. Instead, Israel produced bloodshed and injustice.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'fruit' is God looking for in the vineyard of your life—what return on His investment in you?
2. How does stewardship (managing what belongs to God) differ from ownership (acting as if blessings are yours to use as you please)?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε	δὲ	ῆγγισεν	ό	καιρὸς	τῶν	καρποὺς	ἀπέστειλεν
when	And	drew near	G3588	the time	G3588	of the fruit	he sent
G3753	G1161	G1448		G2540		G2590	G649
τοὺς	δούλους	αὐτοῦ	πρὸς	τοὺς	γεωργοὺς		
G3588	servants	of it	to	G3588	the husbandmen		
	G1401	G846	G4314		G1092		
λαβεῖν		τοὺς	καρποὺς	αὐτοῦ			
that they might receive		G3588	of the fruit	of it			
G2983			G2590	G846			