

Matthew 21:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

Analysis

Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise—God's patience persists through escalating rejection. ἀλλούς δούλους πλείονας τῶν πρώτων (allous doulous pleionas tōn prōtōn)—'other servants, more than the first.' Each wave of prophets faced identical treatment: violent rejection.

Divine patience should provoke repentance (Rom 2:4), yet Israel's pattern hardened into habit. God's repeated sending of prophets demonstrates both His mercy (giving more opportunities) and their guilt (multiplying rebellions). The same message, different messengers, identical rejection—proving the problem lies not in the prophets but in the people's hearts.

Historical Context

The pre-exilic prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), exilic voices (Daniel), and post-exilic messengers (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) all called Israel to covenant faithfulness. Nearly all faced opposition, persecution, or death. Even after returning from Babylonian exile—God's judgment on fruitlessness—Israel continued rejecting prophetic ministry.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's persistent sending of messengers despite repeated rejection reveal His heart toward rebellious people?
2. What pattern of resisting the same conviction through different circumstances might indicate dangerous heart-hardening in your life?

Interlinear Text

πάλιν ἀπέστειλεν ἄλλους δούλους πλείονας τῶν

Again **he sent** **other** **servants** **more** G3588
G3825 G649 G243 G1401 G4119

πρώτων καὶ ἐποίησαν αὐτοῖς ὡσαύτως

than the first **and** **they did** **unto them** **likewise**
G4413 G2532 G4160 G846 G5615

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:4 (Parallel theme): Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.