

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. ἄλλους 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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.