

Matthew 21:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

Analysis

And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him— Prophecy masquerading as parable. The verbs predict Jesus's passion: ἐκβαλόντες ἔξω τοῦ ἀμπελῶνος (ekbalontes exō tou ampelōnos)—'casting out of the vineyard.' Jesus was crucified outside Jerusalem's walls (Heb 13:12), **outside the camp**, bearing our reproach.

And slew him (ἀπέκτειναν, apekteinan)—murdered the heir to seize his inheritance. The tenants' logic was perverse: kill the son and the vineyard becomes ours. Israel's leaders rejected Jesus to maintain their religious authority, not realizing they forfeited everything. The very act of casting out the Son brought judgment on their stewardship.

Historical Context

Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin inside Jerusalem, but executed at Golgotha outside the city walls (John 19:17-20). His death outside the camp fulfilled Levitical requirements for sin offerings (Lev 16:27) and separated Him from the holy city—ultimate irony, as the leaders cast out the Holy One.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's willing acceptance of being 'cast out' provide your entrance into God's presence (Heb 10:19-22)?
2. What 'inheritance' are you tempted to secure by keeping Jesus at arm's length rather than surrendering control?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λαβόντες	αὐτὸν	ἐξέβαλον	ἐξω	τοῦ	ἀμπελῶνος
And	they caught	him	and cast	him out of	G3588	the vineyard
G2532	G2983	G846	G1544	G1854		G290

καὶ	ἀπέκτειναν
And	slew
G2532	G615

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:23 (Parallel theme): Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: