

Matthew 22:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

Analysis

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables (ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν εἶπεν ἐν παραβολαῖς)—The phrase palin ('again') connects this to the preceding Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen (21:33-46). Jesus intensifies His confrontation with Israel's leaders through parabolais (parables), a teaching method that simultaneously reveals truth to receptive hearts and conceals it from the hardened (13:10-17).

This third consecutive parable about rejection escalates the stakes: from rejecting prophets, to killing the Son, to refusing the kingdom invitation itself. The trilogy forms a prophetic indictment of first-century Israel's rejection of Messiah.

Historical Context

This parable was delivered during Passion Week (21:23) in the Temple courts, immediately after the chief priests and Pharisees recognized themselves in the previous parable (21:45). The use of multiple parables reflects rabbinic teaching style, where repetition with variation drives home a point.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus use parables when His opponents are already hostile—what does this reveal about divine pedagogy?
2. How do these three consecutive parables build upon each other in their portrait of Israel's rejection?
3. In what ways might you be hearing Jesus's teaching without truly responding to it?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ἐν
And answered Jesus again and spake unto them by
G2532 G611 G3588 G2424 G3825 G2036 G846 G1722

παραβολαῖς λέγων
parables and said
G3850 G3004

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