



Series: The Minor Prophets

Lesson: 56. Zechariah, pt. 12 – The Good Shepherd Rejected

Passage: Zech. 11

Related Reading: Ezek. 34; John 10:1–16

- **The _____ for the Nation (vv1–3)**
 - This poem is explained by the rest of the chapter.
 - It describes a fire consuming all the trees in the nation from the northwest to the southeast.
 - Something calamitous is going to happen that will affect the whole nation.

- **God's _____ for the Good Shepherd (vv4–6)**
 - Zechariah is told to pasture this flock that is 'doomed.'
 - They are doomed because those who 'own' them are abusing them for personal gain, and those responsible for protecting them don't care.

- They are facing this because God has given them over to bad

_____.

- Zechariah knowing his shepherding is doomed to fail is reminiscent of Jeremiah (7:27) and Jesus.

Matt. 23:37–39 – “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”

- **How the Nation _____ to the Good Shepherd (vv7–17)**

- Even though God promised judgment under bad leadership, He commissioned Zechariah to give them a chance to respond to good leadership.

- This experience is a very close _____ of Christ’s first advent.
- The consequences of rejecting the Good Shepherd were fulfilled in 70 AD.

- The two staves represent _____ from threats within and without.

- The identity of the three shepherds is very vague.
 - The best explanation is probably the three offices (_____, _____, and _____).

- He is wearied by the stubborn people who end up _____ him.

- Verse 9 fulfills verse 6's warning of giving the people up when they reject his leadership.

- The 'covenant with the peoples' is best understood as God's protection of Israel by restraining her _____ (cf. Job 5:23; Ezek. 34:25; Hos. 2:18).

- The people have one last chance to submit to God through Zechariah's leadership, but instead they pay him off.
 - This signified a termination of the _____.
 - They offered him a _____ price (cf. Ex. 21:32).
 - Rejecting Zechariah was part of pattern that led ultimately to rejecting Christ.

Matt. 23:34–36 – “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, ³⁵so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

- This scene is a direct _____ of what happened to Christ.

Matt. 26:14–16 – Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

Matt. 27:3–10 – Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to that yourself!” ⁵And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.” ⁷And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; ¹⁰and they gave them for the Potter’s Field, as the Lord directed me.”

- The breaking of 'Union' shows the fractured nature of the nation after they rejected God's leadership.
 - A possible near fulfilment happened in Samaritan Schism of 325 BC (cf. John 4:20), but the far fulfilment was 70 AD.

- Since they rejected good shepherding, Zechariah was told to take the equipment of a foolish shepherd as a sign-act.
 - This could stand for any of many different leaders who abused people for personal gain.
 - A bad shepherd will neglect the duties of a shepherd and take advantage of the people instead, even resort to cruelty.

- Even though bad leadership will fill the void, they will be rendered _____.

What Do We Do with This Text?

1. We need to work to resist our human impulse to _____ godly leadership.

Important principle: _____ leads people to reject godly leadership!

Two ways we need to pray for God's grace:

1. That He would _____ and sustain godly shepherds
2. That He would _____ us to avoid rejecting those godly shepherds when we have them

Blanks: Lament, Commission, leadership, Responded, type, protection, Prophet, Priest, King, detesting, enemies, relationship, slave's, prophecy, powerless, reject, sin, provide, sanctify