Sunday Sermon Notes	

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



Israel Rejects Her Shepherd

Zechariah 11:1-17

4 Thus saith the Lord my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; 5 Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the Lord; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not.

6 For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them.

7 And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.

8 Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

9 Then said I, I will not feed you: that that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off, let it be cut off; and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another.

10 And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people.

After reaffirming the blessings of the glories to come and the great strength of Israel, it seems this passage comes out of nowhere! Zechariah at the direction of God prophetically points to Israel's future rejection of her own Shepherd and the judgments that follow as God removes His hand of blessing. Amazingly we see here the first coming of Jesus, and His rejection by His own people. We also see the future false shepherd and his ultimate demise.

Part 1—Destruction In Israel

Read Zechariah 11:1-6;

- 1) According to verse 6 what will that Lord no longer do for Israel? How would this affect them?
- 2) How did the leaders of the people (shepherds, young lions, possessors) treat them?
- 3) How do your leaders affect your future?

Part 2—The Good Shepherd Comes

Read Zechariah 11:7-8; Luke 15:1-7

- 1) What do you think the two staves of the good shepherd represent?
- 2) According to Luke 15 how did Jesus (the Good Shepherd) differ from the leaders (shepherds) of Israel?

3) In what ways does Jesus "shepherd" you?

Part 3—The Rejection

Read Zechariah 11:8-14; Exodus 21:32; John 3:17-18

- 1) Why did the shepherd break his shepherding staves?
- 2) According to Exodus why might the shepherd been valued at 30 pieces of silver? What kind of statement do you think this made?
- 3) What does John 3 indicate is the importance of receiving Jesus?

Part 4—The Foolish Shepherd

Read Zechariah 11:15-17; Revelation 19:19-21

- 1) The foolish shepherd seems to be a prophetic reference to the coming Antichrist of the end times. According to this chapter why does God allow him to rise to power?
- 2) According to Revelation 19 what is the ultimate end of the Antichrist (Beast)?
- 3) Why do you think the Jews rejected Jesus and why do you think they will receive (temporarily) Antichrist?