**Zechariah’s Joy:**

**Trusting God in Days of Pain # 13, ‘Rejecting the Shepherd’**

**June 4th, 2017**

**Text: Zech. 11:1-14**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Intro:**

1. **Context:** **How are we to read the promises given to Israel? (4 ways)**

* They are for national Israel (c/f Zech.8:13)
* There is still a future for repentant ‘Israel’ (c/f Rom.11)
* Through Christ Gentiles become partners in the promises (c/f Eph.2:12; Gal.3:29)
* Many of these promises are ‘layered’…partly fulfilled in Zechariah’s time

1. **Setting**

* Zechariah = ***‘one whom the Lord remembers’***
* **Two main sections:**
* Chap.1-8 – **God will intervene! Trust His Promises!**
* Chap. 9-14 – **Messiah (Jesus) is the center of God’s intervention plan!**
* Review Chapters 9,10…**Pondering the Promises, Praying the Promises…**

1. **Illus.** Luke 14:16 -24, 2 invites, 2 excuses, 1 big problem…(active or passive?)

***Q. What are the consequences for rejecting Christ?***

**II. The Contrast (11:1-14 *‘…and they weighed out as my wages 30 pieces of silver…’* 12)**

1. **Framing the Text**

* Contrasting Zechariah 11 with the message of 9 and 10
* Tension resolved in Jesus, He is peaceful yet conquers the world
* An ultimate tragedy – rejecting God’s Messiah
* 1-3, the ruin of the land under God’s judgment
* 4-13, the nation rejects God’s Shepherd, consequences
* 14-17, subjected to a worthless shepherd (who will be judged himself)

1. **Grasping the Text**

* 1-3, entirety of the land to be destroyed (does Zechariah connect to the Roman destruction of Jerusalem to Christ’s rejection? How does this connect to Zechariah 11?)
* **Summary:** **4-14, ‘prophetic drama’ acted out by Zechariah**
* The Good Shepherd (4-14; c/f Jn.10:10-14), and a contrast
* The worthless Shepherd, judgement (15-17)
* **What does it say?**
* **Sheep doomed for slaughter (4-6)**
  + Their own prosperity, ***‘sheep traders’*** (5,7 - c/f NT, Matt.23, ***‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees…’***)
  + God’s protection removed…disaster (6, many believe this describes the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70)
* **Obedience to God’s command – two staffs (7-11)** 
  + One called ***‘Favor’*** (God’s electing Israel) the other ***‘Union’*** (brotherhood of Israel and Judah) – what does this mean?

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  + ***‘In one month’*** (8) he gets rid of them – who are they? Many thoughts…
  + The Shepherd is impatient with His flock…He breaks the staff (8,10)
* **Rejection of the Shepherd (12-14)** 
  + The nation’s rejection – he asks for His wages
  + How cheap is your service?
  + Considering Matt. 27:3-10 – Judas, the Jewish Leaders and 30 pieces of silver (c/f Matt.27:3-10). Zechariah 11 predicts the ‘rejection’ of Messiah at His first coming
  + Breaking the second staff (14) no nation in Israel for thousands of years…

**III. The Consequences (*‘…woe to my worthless shepherd…’* 15-17)**

1. ***‘Woe’* language in Scripture…**Hebrew and Greek

* c/f Mk. 14:17-21…consequences, we are under judgment (c/f Rev.8:13; Jn.3:36)
* Individually and nationally (11:6; c/f Rom.1:18-32)

1. **The Tragedy of Rejecting Christ**

* Rejecting Christ leads to confusion and enslavement (c/f 2 Pet.2:18,19)
* Rejecting Christ exposes you to exploitation (c/f Jam.4:2)
* Life is the Spirit is to look radically different (c/f Gal.5:19-23)
* Rejecting Christ results in being ‘given over’ by God (11:6,8-9)
* *‘****His blood shall be on us and on our children’***(c/f Matt.27:25)
* Did God ‘give them over’?

1. **The Joy of Treasuring Christ – How? (Piper)**

* ***‘Give me your wages’*** (12) – God had called for love, devotion, obedience…they valued Him at the price of a slave
* The Father Treasures Christ
* The Spirit Magnifies Christ
* The Believer Display Christ
* The Church Glorifies Christ
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