Read Zechariah 11:4-17. This passage presents a sobering picture of what happens when God's people reject the leadership He graciously provides. Earlier, Zechariah had spoken of the coming Messiah-King who would save God's flock *(9:16)* and enter Jerusalem in humble victory, riding on a donkey *(9:9)*. Now, through an action parable involving a flock of sheep, Zechariah illustrates the failure of Israel's human shepherds. Throughout Israel's history, kings and leaders were entrusted with the responsibility of caring for God's people. They were to protect, provide for, guide, and lead the flock in the ways of the Lord. Yet so many failed in that calling, contributing to the rebellion that brought about Israel's exile. Having returned by God's grace, the people must not repeat the foolishness and unfaithfulness of their fathers.

The breaking of the staffs called Favor and Union demonstrated how Israel had repeatedly rejected God's blessings through rebellion, idolatry, injustice, and misplaced trust in foreign powers. Even when given another opportunity to express gratitude and return to the Lord, the people responded with an insult: thirty pieces of silver, the value assigned to a slave *(Exodus 21:32)*. Their response revealed how little they valued the care and leadership God had provided through His shepherd. The Lord directed Zechariah to throw the money to the potter, symbolically demonstrating the contempt with which the people had treated Him. How tragic that the very One who had graciously cared for His flock was treated as though He were of little worth!

Yet this action parable points us toward an even greater fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The Good Shepherd came to seek and save the lost, but He too was rejected, mocked, and valued at thirty pieces of silver *(Matthew 27:3-10)*. The fulfillment of this prophecy, along with the many other prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' first coming, gives us tremendous confidence that He truly is God's promised Messiah. He is the Savior, the King of kings, and the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep. His worth is beyond measure, and His care for us is beyond anything we could ever repay. Knowing who He is, we must guard against the same ingratitude and rebellion that characterized the flock in Zechariah's day. Our lives should demonstrate that we recognize the immeasurable value of His grace and gladly submit to His loving leadership.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: How does the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy in the life and death of Jesus strengthen your confidence that He is truly the promised Messiah? In what ways might the attitudes or priorities of your life reveal that you are taking the Good Shepherd's care and blessings for granted? What changes could you make this week to demonstrate greater gratitude, humble obedience, and wholehearted devotion to the One who gave His life for you?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"…'Behold, there is a Man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord.'"

Zechariah 6:12

Weekly Affirmation:

Oh Lord, You Are Beautiful!

November 2026 Growth Goals

- ○ Read the Books of Zechariah & Malachi
- ○ Watch the Bible Project videos on Zechariah & Malachi *(available on the website)*.
- ○ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ○ Write out a list of things for which you are thankful, at least one thing from each day of the month. Read it over Dec. 1st.