LEADERSHIP

Studies in the Book of Zechariah
Part 5



"Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house…"

— ZECHARIAH 3:7 (ESV)

Zechariah 3:7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house…"

The book of Zechariah has a lot to say to Joshua and Zerubbabel, the leaders of the remnant of Israel about how to do their roles properly. The book also addresses good and bad shepherds from the past, present, and future. All in all, Zechariah is full of leadership principles we would do well to take note of.

Last session we talked about Zechariah 3:1-5, through the lens of God's plans for Israel.

Who remembers what was happening in that scene?

Let's pick it up in the very next verse - but this time through the lens of God's desire for good shepherds.

Read Zechariah 3:6-8

This is a call to lead well.

Notice there is a big IF in verse 6. Meaning, there are promises, but there are also conditions.

What are the two conditions that are given here?

How are these two leadership qualities (walking in His ways and keeping His charge) different from the typical leadership qualities we hear about?

What does that mean for people who might lack natural leadership charisma?

What are the 3 promises if the 2 conditions are met?

What do you think it means to "rule His house"?

I can't help but think of Joseph over Potiphar's house.

Genesis 39:4-6b

So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. 5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. 6 So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

What might that look like if we are talking about being over the House of God?
In Zechariah 3:7, what does the phrase, "the right of access among those who are standing here" mean?

As we learned in chapter 4, verse 14, that right of access, being in the presence of God is the very thing that even makes us capable of building the House of God. It is there we become "sons of fresh oil" and are able to pour ourselves out into the lampstand of the church to shine the light of God.

Jesus has since fulfilled the conditions on our behalf (walking in His ways and keeping His charge), thus giving us access to stand in His presence.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Just because Jesus did the work to qualify us for access into His presence does that mean that God's definition of good leadership has changed?

Re-read verse 8 (of chapter 3)

This might be the most important question we ask this week: Who do God's good leaders represent?

You might remember from chapter 6, verse 12 that it is actually the Branch that builds the House.

Zechariah 6:12

And say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord.

Do you see the point that the scripture is making? That though Jesus is our ultimate hope and ultimate leader who will finish everything He started, modern leaders are expected to emulate Him?

In what areas are Christians called to leadership?

What about discipling? How many people are called to that according to the bible?

Referring to the leadership of God's oppressed people, God says this…

Read Zechariah 10:3

How serious does God take leadership?

The next chapter builds on that point.

Read Zechariah 11:1-3

Who is this addressed to (in general)? Verse 3 gives the answer.

What does bad leadership lead to?

Now God is going to have Zechariah do a prophetic act. Whether it's a prophetic story or whether he actually did the act is debated by scholars. What's important is the message.

Read verses 4-6

What is God calling Zechariah to do?

Why?

What 3 types of people does verse 5 mention?

Who are those people in context?

How might we learn from this for ourselves?

In the full context of scripture, this part is probably specifically addressing the leaders of Israel in AD 32, as we will see.

Read verses 7-14

First, what is literally happening with Zechariah (if he is literally performing these actions)?

What's happening metaphorically?

> *"You were being treated cruelly. I came to be a good shepherd. I came to bring Favor and Union. I got rid of 3 of your cruel leaders. But you detested me. And so, you're not getting favor or union at this time"*

Who are the 3 shepherds Jesus replaced? I don't know but listen to this segment from a commentary by David Baron:

> *"If Israel would have received Him, they would have found in Him their Prophet, Priest, and King. They might even, as Pusey suggests, "have been held under Him" (that is, by human representatives of Him); but having rejected Him, these three offices, which, originally appointed by God, were mediatorial in their character, and were held on earth by those who were meant to represent and foreshadow Him who is the "one mediator between God and man" were "cut off", that is, abolished, as an outward sign that through their rejection of Christ their relations with God were broken off."*

ESV tries to make sense of 11 and 12.

Read in ESV and another translation.

What are your thoughts on who he is addressing?

What is the significance of the 30 pieces of silver?

This is where anti-Semites and replacement theology people stop. They say Israel rejected Jesus and so Jesus rejected them. The end. But that's not the end. Last session we looked at a load of passages from this same book that talked about God's wonderful plans for Israel. When reading scripture, we need to look at all of it. Because God uses both the good and the bad. He uses our rejection as well as our acceptance.

Read Zechariah 13:7-9 for a broader picture of what's happening.

Read Matthew 27:5-10

> *And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." 7 So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."*

Back to Zechariah 11, Read verses 15-17

Why is Zechariah asked to take up the equipment of a foolish shepherd? (Literally evil shepherd)

Who is raising up a bad shepherd?

Why is He raising up a bad shepherd?

Because we asked for it. Like in chapter 13. We chose to strike the good shepherd. But for us in this room, the consequences of life without Him drove us back to Him.

Our tendency is to want a Saul. We want a shepherd in our image. But he is never good for us. And hopefully we get to a point where we realize it. So in God's mercy, He gives us a better option. Even though we may have rejected it before, His hand is extended. The bad shepherd should send those with common sense into the care of the Good Shepherd. Saul and David were a type of this idea.

Read John 10:14-16

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Read Zechariah 9:16

Back to Zechariah 11
Who do you suspect this bad shepherd is? (Antichrist?)

Remember, God is raising him up. Let me ask again, why?

What will happen to him?

Since this whole chapter is about leadership, let's reverse the characteristics of the bad shepherd in verse 16 and see what God is looking for in a good shepherd.

Characteristics of a Good Shepherd

- One who cares for those being destroyed
- One who seeks the young
- One who heals the maimed
- One who nourishes the healthy
- One who gives Himself to be devoured

900 years earlier, God, in His foresight, gave the Israelites who were about to cross the Jordan and take possession of Canaan instructions for a king, should the Israelites ever desire a king like the surrounding nations.

This law, the people of Zechariah's time should be familiar with.

Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20

> *"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel."*