Sermon Notes, Zechariah 10-11, Sunday 22 Nov 2026

Who influences you? Who guides you through life?

These two chapters belong with chapter 9.

A key word through chapters 10 and 11: “shepherd” (12 times)

Shepherds were a picture of leadership in ancient Israel.

10:1–11:3 – Where the people are and what God will do

They’re turning to pocket idols for rain because they have bad shepherds.

God will raise up new leaders from the tribe of Judah.

Chapter 9 described the king God would send.

The king is a sign of stability, and a great rescue.

11:4–17 – How they got here

Zechariah is given a vision in which he acts the part of a shepherd.

First, he plays a good shepherd, representing God the Good Shepherd.

He cares for the sheep that will die so others can profit.

He uses two staffs to symbolise God’s care: Favour and Union.

He particularly cares for the oppressed – the weak sheep.

The sheep hate this shepherd. So God quits.

The sheep pay the shepherd 30 coins. Zechariah breaks the two staffs.

Second, he plays the part of a bad shepherd.

The sheep are just a source of meat.

If we reject God the good shepherd, God will send bad shepherds.

But God cares and so judges the bad shepherds. Back to 10:1

Jesus the good shepherd

They had Zechariah dressed as a shepherd to represent God shepherding.

We have Jesus who is God shepherding his own people.

Jesus is the ultimate dependable shepherd

Jesus is the ultimate rescuer “as though I had not rejected them” (10:6)

In fact better: Broken and fully restored is more glorious than never broken

Under Jesus the Shepherd, God’s people will be joyful and numerous.

Jesus the rejected shepherd

But then comes 11:8 – people hate Jesus the shepherd.

It’s not just “them out there” who do this. Christians can too.

We like the way he cares for us, but we don't want him to direct us.

Sometimes, we decide it's too costly to follow him.

Sometimes, we don't want to know what he wants us to do, just in case.

Jesus the resigned shepherd

11:8-9 – God the good shepherd resigned.

So God gives us bad leaders. Church leaders who feed off the sheep,

or secular gurus who are very different from Jesus.

They looked to pocket idols to tell them when to plant crops.

We look to pocket technology to tell us how to navigate life.

Jesus, your shepherd and mine?

The story doesn't end with the bad shepherds. God gets rid of them and sent the Good Shepherd.

There aren't endless fresh chances; next time, Jesus comes back to judge.

We must each decide: Will we have Jesus as our shepherd?