

Facing our Sins
Matthew 27:1-10

Review:

1. When we realize we have sinned, we can try to justify ourselves, distancing ourselves from it.
2. Guilt can lead us to regret or despair, but our feelings cannot change what we have done
3. It is only the Christ we have denied and rejected Who can save us, for the cross to which His enemies sent Him is the only atonement for our sins

Reflect:

1. In what parts of your life are you most tempted to make excuses for what you've done or left undone?
2. In what parts of your life do you feel the deepest regrets? Ask the Lord not only to forgive you but to cleanse you of your rationalizations and your regrets.

Go further: Read Zechariah 11:4-14

1. What does the Lord tell Zechariah to do for the flock?
2. What does the Lord say the owners are doing to their flock?
3. How do those who sell the sheep describe themselves?
4. How do the shepherds react to the flock?
5. In verse 6, what is God's reaction to the inhabitants of the land?
6. What kinds of oppressors does God say will attack the people?
7. How does God say He will respond to these attacks?
8. What did Zechariah do for the flock in verse 7? To whom did he pay special attention?
9. What names did Zechariah give to his two staffs?
10. In verse 8, what does Zechariah do to the three shepherds and why?
11. In verse 9, what does Zechariah say he will no longer do? Instead, what will he allow the sheep to do?
12. In verse 10, which of Zechariah's staffs does he cut in two and why?
13. What did Zechariah's action prove to the poor of the flock?
14. In verse 12 for what does Zechariah ask? What is he given?
15. In verse 13, what does the Lord tell Zechariah to do with this money? How does he describe the amount he received?
16. Where did Zechariah throw this money?
17. In verse 14, which of Zechariah's staffs does he cut in two and why?

Summary and Application:

1. How do the names of Zechariah's two staffs describe the blessings God's people receive from being in a right relationship with Him? Why would breaking God's covenant destroy these blessings?
2. Reading about all the ways in which God's people have rejected Him over the years, what is your response? How can you draw closer to God instead of pushing Him further away?