***Zechariah 11:12-13 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.***

What a time of blessing this weekend has been! Fellowship, Food, Fun, and, above all Faith. This morning a Baptism! A new believer has made a public profession of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven and many here on earth are celebrating. It’s a blessed day that still has much more to come. God is good!

As we have been studying for the last two weeks, this morning we are going to look at Old Testament prophecy and draw a straight line into the New Testament. So far, we’ve looked at Isaiah 53, written 750 years before Christ, and Psalm 22, written 1000 years before Christ. This morning, we are in Zechariah. Zechariah prophesied 550 years before the Crucifixion of Jesus. His prophecy is very specific, once again reassuring us that God is in the details. He knows about our situation long before we become aware. He’s not surprised. He’s trustworthy.

He's worthy of all glory and honor Walker… our deepest praise. He’ll always be by your side, and He already knows what’s coming. Study your Bible. Pray. Seek Him. Without Him, we are lost. With Him, we are never alone. Let’s draw a couple of the straight lines this morning.

Verse 12 of our scripture says *- Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.* 550 years before the night that Judas betrayed the Savior, God provided Zechariah this prophecy. In Zechariah 9, we can draw straight lines to Palm Sunday and Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Now, Zechariah speaks of thirty pieces of silver, the value of a slave in Jewish Law found in Exodus 21. It’s worth about $250 today, depending on the silver content in the shekel. $250 to sell the Savior. Let’s draw our straight line. Matthew 26:14-16 - *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.* God knew. He knew the betrayal. He knew that Judas would seek the opportunity to betray. God knew the number of pieces of silver. This was Judas’ wage to betray the Savior, the King become Bondservant, sent to save us from our sins.

Verse 13 – *And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” – that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.* The price of the Prince of Peace, that Princely Price, about $250. God now says – throw it to the potter. Well, what in the world can that mean 550 years before this takes place? Let’s draw our straight line Walker – Matthew 27:3-7 *Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.* (Judas – seeing that Jesus was condemned – took the money back and threw it into the house of the Lord, just as God through Zechariah said he would.) *But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.* The chief priests are now concerned with lawful. They weren’t concerned with unlawful conspiring, unlawful arrest, unlawful witness. So, they took the money and bought the potter’s field. The money is used “for the potter”, just as Zechariah 11:13 said.

1000 years before, 750 years before, 550 years before – specifics, straight lines. God knew the details then and He knows the details now. He knew the details of Judas’ life and He knows the details of ours. He is trustworthy. Let’s consider where we are in our walk with Jesus. Are we new and fresh and eager like Walker? Perhaps, we’ve instead grown cold and apathetic, our fire for Jesus dim in our hearts. Or perhaps, you’ve never believed at all. Today is a great day to rededicate our lives, stoke the fire, and burn hot for Jesus again and it’s a great day to give your life to Jesus, the One that knows it all and loves us completely. Come as we sing and Heaven will celebrate, as we on earth rejoice.