

Matthew 26:31-35

I Will Strike the Shepherd

Closer to the cross ...

I. The Scandal

A. The Shepherd Stricken

B. The Sheep Scattered

II. That Offends

A. Christ Crucified

B. Divine Folly

... and the resurrection.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who is the "Shepherd" Jesus is talking about?
2. What is going to happen to this Shepherd?
3. What does He say will happen to His disciples?
4. What do the disciples (especially Peter) have to say about that?
5. In v. 31 what does Jesus mean by saying He will be "raised up?"

Scandalous!

The word used to describe the impact Jesus' arrest and what follows in the Greek is the word from which we get our word 'scandal.' The disciples will be scandalized by the passion of Jesus, and their knee jerk reaction, prompted by fear, will be to scatter. Despite their protests they will "fall away" (be scandalized) when the moment of truth comes. While the men can't believe they will abandon Jesus, He knows better. Not only was it "written," Jesus is in full control of the situation even to the point where He declares His resurrection on the other side of His death. Regardless of the fact that Jesus conquered death, the cross continued and continues to be a scandalous offense to many. But for those who are saved the preaching of Christ is appreciated as the power and wisdom of God. (For more on this see 1 Corinthians 1:16-31)