

THE BIG IDEA: Rebuilt people rebuild.

The Take-Off

Over the past 3 weeks and concluding today, we've explored what the Bible says about stones and asked ourselves what we can do with them based on what we've found in God's word.

We admitted at the beginning that the most natural thing to do with a stone is throw it - and a lot of people in and out of the church are doing that - but we believe God has a better plan for stones than that.

Week 1 we learned that **forgiven people forgive** and that **in a divided world we need to drop the stones.**

Week 2 we learned that **blessed people bless** and that **in a hurting world we need to use the stones.**

Week 3 we learned that **raised people praise** and that **in a confused world we need to silence the stones.**

This morning we're going to end our series in **1 Peter 2:4-9 (NIV)** and here's what we're going to see: **in a broken world we need to become the stones.**

Our 3 word Big Idea? **Rebuilt people rebuild.**

1. The reality

- a. Let's talk about **the reality**: we're broken people living in a broken world.
- b. Isaiah 53:6 explains how we got broken: we decided to try and find our own way.
- c. The longer turn away from God's way and toward our own, the greater the risk of brokenness.
- d. Acts 26:14 - "it's hard to kick against the goads" - an ox goad was a stick with a pointed piece of iron on its tip used to prod the oxen when plowing.
- e. Basically, the more the ox went its own way, the more it suffered.
- f. It doesn't mean we're not going to experience brokenness when we submit to God's way - Isaiah implies that sheep still tend to wander off
- g. But when we submit to God's truth and way, we place ourselves in His care, too
- h. The reality is that all of us need a savior, but not just a savior - we all need a shepherd, too

2. The remedy

- a. So here in our passage we find **the remedy** to this rebellious reality: a life built by God on the foundation of Jesus
- b. 1 Peter 2:4 / Jesus is the cornerstone - the most important stone - JESUS IS LORD
- c. v. 5 / in that context, we can become living stones but only when we allow the master builder to build!
- d. vv. 6-8 / some don't let Him - He isn't Lord and they stumble over Jesus being THE stone
- e. v. 9 / when we allow Jesus the place of Lord and Cornerstone, we're chosen by Him and placed by Him! (cf. Ephesians 2:10; 1 Cor. 12:18; and Ephesians 2:20)
- f. v. 9 / look what happens when we live as living stones in the Master's hands - we show others the goodness and the light of God!

3. The result

- a. That's part of **the result**, but we find even more in Isaiah 58:10-12
- b. This comes in the context of a rebuke about true fasting, basically that we're to offer to God the fasting that he desires, not the kind we want (because HE IS LORD)
- c. When we live like that, light will **shine out from** the darkness and the darkness **around us** will be bright
- d. Look at v. 12 - then we will rebuild!
- e. It's not enough for us to find our place - we've been placed in the wall in order to help others find a place in the wall. **Rebuilt people rebuild.**

The Landing

I want to close by reading Matthew 16:18 and help us see it in a little bit of a way

Jesus is building His church on the foundation that He is Lord - **it is about the growth IN the church as much as it's about the growth OF the church**

Let's close by seeing how He builds us into masterpieces that fit perfectly in His masterplan

[VIDEO / God's chisel]