

October 17, 2010
"The Stone..."
Matthew 21:42-46

I. *The Stone which the builders rejected* –

1. *The chief priests and scribes were indignant* –

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant (Matthew 21:15 NKJ)

A. *INDIGNANT* – "Affected at once with anger and disdain; scorn or contempt, as when a person is exasperated at one despised"
American Dictionary of the English Language--- Noah Webster 1828

B. *What seems to have bothered them MOST was the children's praises and they seem to think Jesus should STOP rather than accept such PRAISE!*

and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" Matthew 2:16a

C. *Jesus not only accepts the PRAISE but He accepts it as God, God's Son* –

... And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?" (Matthew 21:16b NKJ)

"O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. (Psalm 8:1-2 NKJ)

2. *The chief priests and elders of the people (the builders)*

QUESTIONED Jesus' Authority –

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" (Matthew 21:23 NKJ)

What "things" was Christ doing?

- *He cleansed the Temple* – Matthew 21:12-13
- *He healed (in the Temple) the blind and lame* – Matthew 21:14
- *The next day He was teaching in the Temple* – Matthew 21:23-27

3. *Jesus' two parables shows He knows the chief priests and Pharisees hatred for Him and in the second of these*

two parables He predicts His own death at their hand, yet also their DESTRUCTION –

"Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.³⁴ "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.³⁵ "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.³⁶ "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.³⁷ "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'³⁸ "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'³⁹ "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"⁴¹ They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." (Matthew 21:33-41 NKJ)

4. *Our text for today shows us Jesus is seeing His REJECTION by the Jews as the fulfillment of Psalm 118:22-23*

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.⁴⁴ "And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet. (Matthew 21:42-46 NKJ)

The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.²³ This was the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. (Psalm 118:22-23 NKJ)

What is meant by the distinction :44 between someone falling on the Stone and the Stone falling on them?

A. *Someone falling on the Stone is the dread mistake of unbelief – but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, (1 Corinthians 1:23 NKJ)*

B. *The Stone falling on them is dread JUDGMENT – "...; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." (Matthew 21:44 NKJ)*

II. *Has become the Chief Cornerstone –*

When Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin because of their healing of a lame man, they are questioned about it and Peter answers –

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:⁹ "If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,¹⁰ "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.¹¹ "This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone."¹² "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:7-12 NKJ)

1. *As the Chief Cornerstone, Jesus is the Most Essential Foundation of the Church and HE is the only WAY of Salvation – Acts 4:11-12*

2. *He is a Living Stone, Chosen by God and precious – Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, (1 Peter 2:4 NKJ)*

This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes – Psalm 118:22 / Matthew 21:42

3. *As Jesus is such a STONE we should praise Him as the children did in the Temple –*

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise '?" (Matthew 21:15-16 NKJ)

4. *Realize too and rejoice, as believers we too are "living stones" in a spiritual Temple –*

you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:5-6 NKJ)

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. (Isaiah 28:16 NKJ)

5. *As He is Chosen, so we are chosen –*

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJ)

6. *He is the Stone Who is King of kings –*

⁴⁴ "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

⁴⁵ "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

(Dan 2:44-45 NKJ)

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:7-11 NKJ)

*Higher yet and ever higher, passeth He those ranks above,
Where the seraphs are enkindled, with the flame of endless love
Passeth them, for not even seraphs have ever loved so well as He
Who hath borne for his beloved, stripes, and thorns, and shameful tree;
Ever further, ever onward, where no Angels foot may tread,
Where the four-and-twenty elders prostrate fall in Mystic dread:
Where the four strange living creatures sing their hymn before the throne,
The Despised One and rejected passeth, in His might alone;
Passeth through the dazzling rainbow, till upon the father's right
He is seated, His Co-equal, God of God, and Light of Light!*

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