

EASTER 5 A 1 Peter 2:2-10
LIVING STONES

Good morning!

Today we have a special guest Preacher all the way from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

A Mr. Quarry Livingstone, who would like to give his testimony, as he personally knew and met the chief cornerstone, many, many years ago.

However, Mr. Livingstone does not speak English. He only knows Hebrew and a little Latin,

So, he has asked, if I would be his interpreter with you this morning, which I am happy to do. [Talk to Stone – Listen then add a prayer in Hebrew, Latin and English to begin sermon.]

He says, I was a little rough when I came from the quarry. I was tumbled out on the ground there with all the other stones for the Builder to pick through. Some of the stones were beautiful, Square, and clean, on all four sides. Some were like me, odd-shaped, and jagged, and lumpy. The Builder went over each of us, looking to see how he could use us. He picked out the very biggest and sturdiest stones to be the foundation of his building, and he set them aside. But the biggest and best stone he chose to be the cornerstone. He began building by setting the cornerstone in place. Once it was in place, he stretched three cords, one straight up and one to either side of the cornerstone, then he began to lay the rest of the stones so that they lined up with those three lines. Every time he picked up a stone he turned it over to find its best face, and then he fit it to the stones next to it and underneath it. Sometimes he had to take his chisel and knock off a rough place or a jagged corner. But when he put each stone into place, it fit perfectly. There was only one stone that he did not have to fit – the cornerstone.

All the other stones were fit to it. All the other stones were placed in relationship to the cornerstone. I was wondering how he was going to use me, the odd stone. Would he have a place for me, or, would I be thrown away? I held my breath, but I should not have worried. When he came to me, he just smiled and said, “I’ve got just the place for you.”

And when he set me in place, I fit perfectly. He said, “Now this is your place here in my building. You have a job to do here, so do it well. Look at all these stones around you. They are not perfect either, but together you make a strong wall, a structure that I have built, which is my church. I have placed each one of you according to the cornerstone, which is Jesus Christ.

If you do your job, you will always be in this same relationship to Jesus.” Now, I am perfectly comfortable with that. I know that the Master Builder has put me, a living stone, into his church, which is founded on Jesus Christ, – the Cornerstone! There are some people today who are building their own building. They’ve deconstructed the Master’s building, and they have chosen their own stones. Their stones are materialism, relativism, and techno-competition. They have set Jesus Christ off to one side. They say he is irrelevant and unusable, a mythological fairy tale, and they have rejected him. But already we are beginning to see that the walls that they have built are beginning to crack and sway. They have not been built on the chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ. We are stones, each of us, living stones, raw material in the hands of God. By ourselves, we cannot form anything. But put together in the right way, on a firm foundation, we can form a strong structure. My question to you is, “Who is your cornerstone?” God has given us Jesus Christ for a firm foundation. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The Chief Cornerstone!

May we rejoice in that good news today. Amen.

Note:

The Building Stone – “Mr. Livingstone” is actually a stone borrowed from my neighbor next door, on Witmarsum West Dr. in North Newton, KS. Thanks to Mr. John Freisen for the use of his building stone!