



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

November 7, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

Come to [Jesus], the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him.

1 Peter 2:4

READ 1 Peter 2:4-10

Have you ever looked through low-priced items at a yard sale and dreamed that you might find something of incredible value? It happened in Connecticut when a floral Chinese antique bowl purchased for just \$35 at a yard sale was sold at a 2021 auction for more than \$700,000. The piece turned out to be a rare, historically significant artifact from the fifteenth century. It's a stunning reminder that what some people consider of little worth can actually have great value.

Writing to believers scattered throughout the known world, Peter explained that their faith in Jesus was belief in the One who'd been rejected by the wider culture. Despised by most of the religious Jewish leaders and crucified by the Roman government, Christ was deemed worthless by many because He didn't fulfill their expectations and desires. But though others had dismissed Jesus' worth, He was "chosen by God and precious to him" (1 Peter 2:4). His value for us is infinitely more precious than silver or gold (1:18-19). And we have the assurance that whoever chooses to trust Jesus will never be ashamed of their choice (2:6).

When others reject Jesus as worthless, let's take another look. God's Spirit can help us see the priceless gift of Christ, who offers to all people the invaluable invitation to become part of the family of God (v. 10).

By **Lisa M. Samra**

PRAY & REFLECT

Dear Jesus, thank You for living a life of obedience so that I could become part of the family of God. Amen

Why do people miss the true value of Jesus? How might you share the blessings of trusting Him?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Traditionally, a cornerstone was the first stone placed at the bottom corner of a building. All other stones were laid in reference to it. Old Testament prophecy points to Christ as "a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16). Yet, He's the "stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall" (8:14). The psalmist wrote, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (Psalm 118:22). Jesus quotes from this psalm to reference how His own people would reject Him as Messiah (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17) and to point to Him as the most important part of the church. He's "the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20). In 1 Peter 2:4-10, the apostle quotes all three Old Testament verses to emphasize our choice: either reject Him or choose Him as Savior. – By **Alyson Kieda**

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