

- I. Jesus is a living stone, rejected by men but elect and honorable in God's sight.
  - A. The stone of offense (Daniel 2:29-45; Matthew 21:42-44)
  - B. Those who believe in him (Psalm 34:6; Isa. 8:14; 28:16; Psa. 118:22).
  - C. Those who do not believe in him ...
- II. People who love Jesus are living stones.
  - A. With a special bond ...
  - B. To become a special people ...
    - 1. God's special people
    - 2. God's priests
  - C. For a special purpose
    - 1. To offer spiritual sacrifices. *God-ward obedience.* (Romans 12:1; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15-16)
    - 2. To proclaim the excellent character of God. *World-ward obedience.* This is practical (2:12; 3:1) and verbal (3:14-16).
- III. You're not going to care unless ...
  - A. You see the priest. (Hebrews 4:15)
  - B. You see the kingdom.
    - 1. The unexpected victory of God in Jesus' resurrection.
    - 2. The promise of a coming world, healed of all sadness.
    - 3. The overthrow of power by weakness in the death and resurrection of Jesus.
  - C. You see the stone, rejected by men but elect and precious in God's sight. (John 12:32-33)