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Faith In Exile | New Temple | 1 Peter 2:4-8



⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, *to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

What are Spiritual Sacrifices?

Daily Acts of Deflecting Glory - Vs. 5, “...acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Daily Acts of Demolition - Vs. 6, *I am laying...a stone, a cornerstone...*

Daily Acts of Dying - Vs.5, “to offer spiritual sacrifices...”

What are some examples of Spiritual Sacrifices?

Costly Prayers

Costly Purity

Costly Generosity

Costly Relationships

“I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.”

- 2 Sam. 24:24

Small Group Discussion Questions

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8

Getting Started

When builders cut corners (even on little things), the result can be destructive for the building. Do you have any examples from your experience?

Digging Deeper

1. Chapter 1 tells us about *spiritual birth* (1:22-25). Chapter 2 begins the discussion about *spiritual growth*. Peter mixes the images of babies and buildings to capture what spiritual growth should look like. What kind of building does Peter say we are? What are some other verses that affirm this identity?
2. There are two (and possibly three) descriptions of what kind of stone Jesus is in this passage. What are they? What do they suggest about his relationship with us?
3. In addition to the Old Testament passages Peter cites, look up some other references where Jesus is likened to a stone. Share what you find with the group.
4. Look up what a *cornerstone* is and how all the other stones in a building relate to it. What lessons do we learn about becoming a Christian and growing up in our faith?
5. Peter's imagery may suggest that our Christian growth involves deconstruction or demolition. How so? Give some examples of what this may look like practically.
6. According to verse 5, we are being built into a temple and priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus. Discuss these following ideas:
 - The temple was ultimately designed to focus us on Jesus' sacrifice not ours.
 - Our sacrifices are a response to his.
 - Sacrifices are supposed to show God's worth instead of showing or proving ours.
 - God doesn't need our sacrifices; we need our sacrifices.
 - Our sacrifices are more about offering *who we are* than *things we do*.

7. Spiritual sacrifices include daily activities (done for God through Jesus) that cost us something significant (cf. 2 Sam. 24:24). This may include prayer, praise, giving, serving others, discipling others, etc. a) What would you add to this list? b) Talk about how we can do the things listed without cost to us. c) Discuss what these things might look like when they do cost us. d) Which ones feel more like a death to you?

Making it Real

8. As you think of the list you just discussed, are you challenged this week in sacrificing in one of these areas. Share which one. Pray that you would do it for God through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit.

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