

## **Faith in the Home**

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter, 1 Peter 2:2-10, "Solid Faith, Solid Foundation."**

When Jesus went to Nazareth during His ministry, He was rejected by his home village and His own earthly family. Jesus taught in synagogues and in the temple, and was rejected by the chief priests and Pharisees. He taught hard teachings and had people who previously followed Him, reject Him. Jesus was rejected time and time again. This is why John 1:11 rightly states of Jesus, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." At culmination of Christ's ministry, He was rejected to the point of dying on the cross.

If you ever felt rejected you have God who can empathize with you. Furthermore, Jesus was given the death penalty for being the Son of God. If He was hated and rejected, we cannot be surprised that we will feel hatred on account of being Christ's Christians. Really, we should expect it. This does not mean that we are to act like victims, but it does mean that we have to be willing walk the hard road of righteousness rather than easy road of evil. There are times where it will be tempting to go along with the world rather than God's Word. There are times where we have all sinned by not standing firm as witnesses to God's Word. But the power of the cross and resurrection saves us. Peter rejected Jesus three times, but through the grace of Jesus, Peter became a force for the Gospel. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Peter wrote this letter to the Church quoting Isaiah about who Jesus is.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. For 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." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. (1 Peter 2:4-8)

Jesus although rejected by the "builders," which means the religious leaders like a stone cast away, is actually the foundation of truth, because He is the Son of God. He is the foundation of our faith and our Church. Even though we to are rejected by the world as well, we are living stones, granted the gift eternal life. We are the living stones that build up the Church. Non-believers stumble on the rock that Jesus is. We as Christ's disciples are built into a Holy nation that will stand firm through out eternity. God has granted you

a solid eternal faith. It is a solid faith because the foundation of that faith is Jesus Christ, who one victory over sin, death, and the devil. He will come again and gather all His saints for all eternity.

***So how do we teach and model these things to our children?***

1. We sin and fall short sinners and saints in this world. Peter received grace after rejecting Jesus before the crucifixion. He shared the Gospel boldly. Jesus forgives your sins as well. You can share the Gospel boldly as well. Especially with your children.
2. Teach your kids that it is more important to faithful to God, then to be loved by the world. They need to know that not everyone will like them. But before God, your children's faith will not be put to shame.
3. Love God, and love the Church. As it says in Hebrews, "Do not forsake the gathering." We need connect our families to God's family. This is the will of God, and this keeps us strong. The people we gather with are our sanctuary in world where we are exiles as God's holy nation. Note: when Jesus was rejected in Nazareth, His family was His disciples (The Church).
4. Remember, that this world is not our home. Our home is yet to come. It will be a glorious eternal home. Remember that we are the ones who stand on solid rock in Jesus as the world seems to be melting away from what it once was.
5. How do we endure this world? As Peter wrote in verse 2 of today's text, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation." As a newborn clings to his or her mother, so shall we cling to our God.