



MILK, STONES & HOLY ZONES

SUMMARY: So far in 1 Peter, we have covered the first chapter, which sets up the message of the letter as a whole. The content of that chapter can be summarized by two words, hope and holiness. The first ten verses of chapter two continue on this opening thought, building on the ideas of 1:23-25.

In that section, Peter explained how his audience came to hear and understand their faith, through the preached word of God. That is how they heard but what was the content of this word that was preached to them? (1:25) Peter gets to that but not before a quick aside to remind his readers about the changes this preached word demands.

In contrast to the positive attributes we saw in 1:13-22, the reader is challenged to rid themselves of five behaviours.

Then in 2:1 Peter returns to the heart of his message, the reason for their faith and the results that it brings. He calls them to crave pure spiritual milk like newborn infants, so that they may grow up into their salvation. Through this, they may taste that the Lord is good.

The metaphor is then changed from milk to stones, bringing the focus of the letter back to the heart of their faith, Jesus. Here he is described as a living stone rejected by humanity but chosen by God. Like him, all who believe are chosen (v.10) rejected (1:1) but as we see here being built into something much greater. The problem is, not everyone will believe it. Some will accept while others reject, it's in God's hands (v.8-9).

1. What do you miss most about not gathering together as a church?
 2. What has stood out most for you from the first chapter of 1 Peter?
 3. How is the command of 2:1 a challenge to us in this current moment?
 4. What do you think Peter means by 'pure spiritual milk' in v.2?
 5. Why do babies crave milk and why are we told to crave this spiritual milk the same way?
 6. Why do you think Peter uses the sense of taste to describe our experience of God?
 7. What does the image of Jesus as a 'living stone' and the readers as 'living stones' mean? (v.4-5)
 8. How is the church both like and unlike the ancient temple? (v.5)
 9. What makes Jesus the cornerstone of the church? (v.6-7)
 10. What defines someone who stumbles at the message of Jesus? (See verse 8)
 11. Read Isaiah 28:16 which is quoted in verse 6. How does this verse ring true to us today?
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I PETER 2:1-8

