

The Psalms: The Rejected Cornerstone

Having reached the life of David in our search for the King, we're going to spend the next few weeks looking at several of the psalms. Where are they quoted in the New Testament? Why? How are they used by the

apostles and Gospel-writers? What's the connection to Jesus? How do they help us see our own King more clearly and understand his mission and will for our lives?

Psalm 118 is a call to give thanks to the LORD whose steadfast love endures forever (118:1). It's a psalm that can help us develop the right perspective and strengthen our hearts for whatever we're facing:

- If the LORD is on my side, why should I fear? (118:6)
- If the LORD is my helper, aren't I on the side of victory? (118:7)
- The LORD is more trustworthy than anyone, and we can take refuge in him (118:8-9)

In 118:21, the psalmist gives thanks to God for hearing his prayer and being the source of his salvation, but notice especially what he writes next, in [verses 22-23](#):

The stone that the builders **rejected**
has become the **cornerstone**.

This is the **LORD's** doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

That's a really significant statement when we realize what happened a thousand years later, the connection that was drawn by Jesus himself, and what he is claiming as a result.

In **Matthew 21**, after making his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (21:1-11) and cleansing the temple (21:12-17), Jesus' authority is sharply challenged by the chief priests and elders of the people (21:23-27). In response, Jesus tells two parables—a parable of two sons (21:28-32) and a parable of some rebellious tenants (21:33-41). And what is his ultimate point? In **Matthew 21:42**, he asks, "Have you never read in the Scriptures?" and he quotes **Psalm 118:22-23**, leading everyone to this conclusion:

"Therefore I tell you, the **kingdom** of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its **fruits**. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

What's the connection? What does it have to do with our search for our King? How does Jesus fulfill **Psalm 118**? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ What did the chief priests and elders of the people want to know in [Matthew 21:23](#)? What did they mean by their question?
- ▶ Let's read Jesus' parable of the tenants in [Matthew 21:33-41](#). What is he talking about? How does the parable relate to the question in [Matthew 21:23](#)?
- ▶ Why does Jesus move immediately from the parable of the rebellious tenants to quoting [Psalm 118](#) in [Matthew 21:42](#)? What's the connection? Who are "the builders" that are rejecting God's "cornerstone"? And what (*or who*) is this "cornerstone"?
- ▶ In [Matthew 21:43](#), the warning sounds really, really serious. What is Jesus saying? Who are the "people" who will "produce the fruits" of the kingdom of God?
- ▶ And what about [Matthew 21:44](#)? If I choose to build my life on this "cornerstone," what will happen? But what will happen if I reject this "cornerstone"?
- ▶ How did Peter make the same point in [Acts 4:5-12](#) before many of the same rulers and elders in Jerusalem?
- ▶ In [1 Peter 2:1-10](#), Peter uses this same idea to challenge and encourage disciples of Jesus for all time. If Jesus is God's cornerstone, what does that mean for you and me? How should it impact my life, my perspective, and what I choose to build?

For NEXT Sunday:

- ▶ Read and meditate on [Psalm 110](#). Jesus himself will quote [Psalm 110](#) in [Matthew 22:41-46](#). **Why?** What prompted Jesus to make that connection to a psalm from a thousand years before? And how does Peter make a connection for *us* in [Acts 2:29-41](#)?