

1 PETER 2:4 STONEWALL

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—

When I am building a rock wall, the primary reason I reject a stone is because it doesn't fit. The problem could be its size, its shape, or perhaps its appearance. But the ultimate decision is based on what I think the wall should look like and whether that particular stone can help to realize my plan. Obviously, if someone else was building a different wall, maybe straight instead of curved, or high instead of low, he might be able to use my discarded stone.

Since the fall, humankind has had a plan. It has manifested itself as a lust to rule the world; an attempt to build a tower to heaven; and a covetousness toward to place of God. Jesus just didn't fit! In fact, Jesus jeopardized the success of the entire enterprise. He had to be gotten rid of.

How does Jesus fit into your life?

My habit is to build garden walls using rocks from the property. One reason I do so is because our little piece of land seems to be at least 60% rock. Every so often I will come across a rock in the ground that looks perfect, but when I try to dig it out I find I am dealing with the terrestrial version of an iceberg. As I conclude that this rock is not going to fit my plan, I face three choices. I can walk away, but risk slipping into the hole or breaking my leg on the rock later. I could try to move the rock and probably hurt myself in the process. I could realize that such a big rock would provide excellent stability to a garden wall and redesign my wall in order to make good use of the rock.

When confronted by Jesus, we face the same options. We can ignore him. We can rebel against him. We can realign our lives according to his will. The last option is called repentance. The result of taking that option is called redemption.

In the best plan of the best builder, Jesus is the stone that provides the best fit.

Jesus, you are the rock that, according to God's plan, is the foundation of my life. Though you have been rejected by men, and in many ways, repeatedly rejected by me when you have gotten in the way of my plan, still you remain in my life. Give me the faith to give up my plan so that I can build a life on yours. Amen.