

# Short Talk

(SHT177)

## A beautiful building?

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “A beautiful building?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to be God’s beautiful “spiritual building” that brings Him glory.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Temple, Presence of God, Jesus, Living Stones, Holy Spirit
- Biblical references:** Luke 21:5-9, 1Peter 2:4-5, 1Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:21-22
- Lectionary:** Year C – The second Sunday before Advent
- Props:** You will need 3-4 pictures of beautiful buildings for example:
- The Gherkin in London
  - The Eiffel tower in Paris
  - The Colosseum in Rome
  - Sydney Opera House in Sydney
  - The Sistine Chapel in Vatican City
  - The Taj Mahal in India

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Many of us enjoy visiting and seeing beautiful buildings, don’t we?

How many of you have visited this building? *(Project one of the pictures)*

- or this one? *(Project one of the pictures)*
- or this one? *(Project one of the pictures)*
- or this one? *(Project one of the pictures)*

These buildings can take our breath away, can’t they?

In Jesus’ day, the Temple in Jerusalem was also a very beautiful building;

- It was not only absolutely huge, but it looked stunning because it was built from white stones, many of which were overlaid with gold.

One day when the disciples were visiting and admiring the temple building Jesus said to them: *“All this you see—the time will come when not a single stone here will be left in its place; every one will be thrown down.”* (Luke 21:6 Good News Version)

Can you imagine the disciples' shock when Jesus told them that this beautiful building would be completely destroyed one day? It seemed so solid!

- Seeing a beautiful building destroyed would be bad enough wouldn't it, but the temple was much much more than a building to the Jewish nation.

The temple was at the very centre of Jewish life because it was the place where God lived among them.....the place of God's presence.

- It would seem totally impossible that this building could ever be destroyed.

But destroyed it was in AD70 by the Romans, about 40 years after Jesus prophesied it,

- to the point where a plough could be driven through the rubble.
- Jesus' words came true.

Now that can seem very sad until we realise that once Jesus had come to earth, the Jewish people no longer needed a temple made out of stones to meet with God.

You see, through Jesus, God was doing a new thing.

- As people came to Jesus, putting their trust in Him, so they became "living stones" that God built together to be a spiritual temple.
- This spiritual temple, of Christians coming together, was where God's presence now dwelt, (1Peter 2:5, 1Corinthians 3:16)
- not in a physical temple built from ordinary stones.

It is the same today. You and I continue to be a part of God's building project!

- When we come to Jesus and put our trust in Him, we become "living stones" in God's spiritual temple.

Look around you.

- See all the different "living stones" that God is using to build His spiritual building here. (*People look around at other people*)

When we meet together like we are doing today, God's presence is in our midst.

- His Holy Spirit is among us.

So, as we have looked at and admired beautiful buildings, I want to ask you this:

- Do we as the people of God, look beautiful to people looking at us from the outside?

I am not talking about people seeing us dressed up in smart clothes.

- I am talking about people seeing the beauty of love, unity, kindness, joy, patience and generosity shown amongst us.
- I am talking about people seeing the beauty of Jesus living among us.

So, let's make sure that when people look at us, they see a beautiful "spiritual building" that brings glory to God.