

Short Talk

(SHT066a)

The Stone the Builders Rejected

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SHORT TALK: “THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED...”

Aim of Short talk:	To challenge people with the truth that although Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders, He is in fact the most important person in the world, who is vindicated by His Resurrection.
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:	Jesus, Cornerstone
Biblical references:	Matthew 21:33-46
Lectionary:	Year A 2023 – The 18 th Sunday after Trinity
Props:	You will need the picture in Appendix 1 of the vase. Either photocopy it onto white card or make a PowerPoint slide of it and project it.

How many of you have watched the television programme “Antiques Roadshow?”

- For those of you who haven't watched it, it is a programme where people bring along all sorts of things that they have in their homes to be valued by experts.

Usually people are quite disappointed to find out that their treasured possession is only worth £20,

- but sometimes people get a shock as something quite ordinary looking turns out to be very valuable.

Look at this picture. *(Show picture of the vase in Appendix 1)*

- It doesn't look anything special does it?

It is a picture of an old glass flower vase that someone in Scotland decided to get rid of.

- They sold it to a lady at a car boot sale for £1, with a plant in it.
- The seller thought that the flower vase was worthless.

Now when the plant eventually died, the lady who had bought the vase also thought that it was worthless,

- and so she put it up in her loft and forgot all about it.

A little while later, the lady decided to clear out her loft.

- She came across the vase and thinking that it was junk was about to throw it away.

However she heard that Antiques Roadshow was coming to town and decided to take it along to the show.

There the lady met antiques experts.

- After they had looked at the vase really closely they told her that it was really valuable.
- When it was finally sold in an auction house it sold for £32,450.00

A vase that people thought was worthless and destined for the tip, actually on close inspection turned out to be something really valuable.

Jesus said something interesting about himself. He said:
"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone....."

What a funny thing to say you might think.

- But when Jesus was talking about the stone the builders rejected, He was talking about Himself.

Jesus knew that many of the Jewish religious leaders and many of the people had rejected Him.

- Jesus knew that they weren't willing to accept who He was,
- that He was the Son of God who had come to bring in God's kingdom rule.

Jesus knew that many people, not seeing His real worth, wanted to get rid of Him;

- a bit like the vase.

Nothing has changed since the first century. It is the same today.

- Many people don't look closely at who Jesus is and what He has done and so they reject Him too;
- thinking that He is worthless.

But things aren't always as they seem are they, like the vase?

Jesus said: *"The stone the builders rejected **has become the cornerstone.....**"*

- The cornerstone is actually the most important stone in the building.
- Jesus, far from being worthless turns out to be the most important person in the world.

So although Jesus was rejected by many people when He first came to earth over two thousand years ago;

- even to the point of being crucified on a cross,
- and He continues to be rejected by many people today,
- actually He is the most precious and important person in the world.

Jesus, the Son of God, is the only One who can make our lives truly rich.

- God proved that to be true when He raised Jesus from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion.

So our question today is: "Do you realise how valuable Jesus is?"

- If you have never taken a close look at Jesus, can I encourage you to do that,
- for unless we look carefully, we could reject the one person who actually turns out to be the most valuable person ever.

Appendix 1 – Picture of “vase” from The Antiques Road Show



LALIQUE 'FLOWERPOT'

Picture from: “Mirror” online¹ 28 JAN 2012

¹ <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/1-vase-sold-for-32k-366489>
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