What it Means to be God's Chosen People

As humans, we long for significance and the sense that our lives have value. This is especially acute when we're experiencing suffering. When we're through challenging times, we may find ourselves wondering: "Does my life matter? Am I making a difference?" But the apostle Peter confidently proclaims that all who have put their trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ have value and purpose. As we study 1 Peter 2, we'll see how Peter comforts Christians experiencing suffering by affirming their identities in Christ and their intrinsic value as God's chosen people.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Who do you know that is an amazing student of the Bible?
- How does it feel to be chosen?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: What it Means to be God's Chosen People

READ <u>1 Peter 2:4-25</u>

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on Peter's illustration of the living stone in <u>1 Peter 2:4-10</u>. What images come to mind when you think about being both alive *and* stone? What do you think that means for your faith life?
- How did you feel at the end of segment 1 when host Scott Hoezee said, "You are the living stones that create the walls of this new church—this new building; and at the same time, you are the people who live inside the building"?
- In segment 2, Scott calls declaring God's praises our common and specific vocation. What is your response to this idea? Have you ever considered praising God a vocation?
- In their discussion of <u>1 Peter 2:13-17</u>, Scott and host Darrell Dalenay make it clear that determining the right actions in situations of injustice and suffering requires intentional prayer, discernment, and trust in the Holy Spirit. In what situations do you need prayer and discernment, so that you can trust the Spirit and glorify God by acting with honor and respect?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 8:14, Matthew 5, Romans 13:1-7

CONCLUSION

Take some time to consider the following questions:

- Who has been like the apostle Peter in your life, reminding you of your significance and value at a time when you were suffering? Think about how that felt and what it looked like.
- Is there presently anyone in your life who would benefit from hearing this reminder from you?

Close your reflection by giving thanks that God chose you and by asking for opportunities to share this reminder of value and significance with others who need to hear it.

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