



Take away
the
Stone

John 11:39

The context

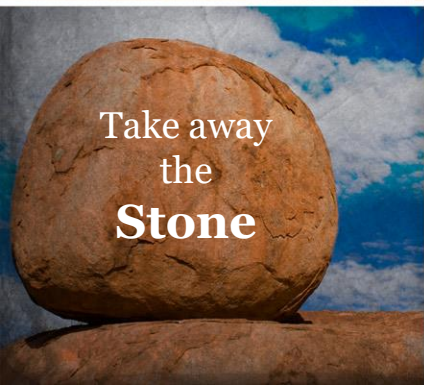
John 11 – the raising of Lazarus

The time for Jesus to be crucified was approaching

Lazarus was sick and his sisters send for Jesus

Jesus delays His coming

Lazarus dies and is buried



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The context

John 11 – the raising of Lazarus
Jesus arrives 4 days later. He
sees Martha & Mary and assures
them Lazarus will live again
(**11:23-26**).

Jesus goes to the tomb where
some question why He didn't heal
Lazarus



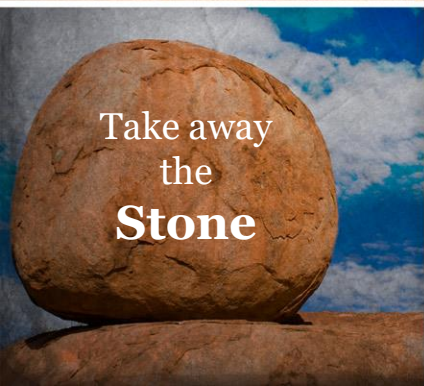
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The context

John 11 – the raising of Lazarus
Jesus then commands that they
take away the stone (**11:39**).

With some concerns, they comply
Jesus raises Lazarus from the
dead

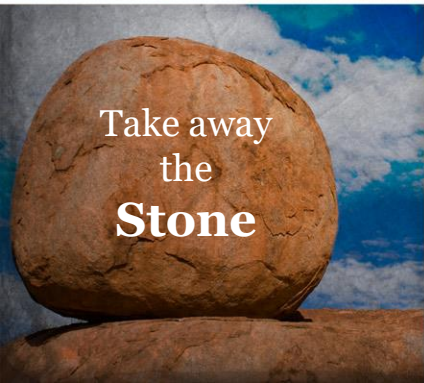
He commands them to loose him
and let him go.



“Take away the stone”

There are many lessons to learn from that statement:

- 1) The stone in place meant Lazarus was dead and all knew
- 2) The stone was a barrier that separated the dead from the living
- 3) Jesus commanded others to remove the stone – they needed to do what they could
- 4) Removing the stone indicated faith
- 5) When removed, Jesus raised Lazarus



“Take away the stone”

Some spiritual applications

- 1) Because of sin we are “dead”
Romans 6:23,
Ephesians 2:1-3
- 2) When dead we are separated from God
Isaiah 59:2,
Colossians 1:21
Ephesians 4:17-18



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“Take away the stone”

Some spiritual applications

3) For Jesus to do His part, we need to do our part

Hebrews 5:9, Acts 2:37-40

4) We act because we believe
Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 11:6, cf. 1 Peter 3:21 –
why baptized?



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“Take away the stone”

Some spiritual applications

5) When we submit to His will,
then He can save us

Ephesians 2:4-5

1 Peter 3:18

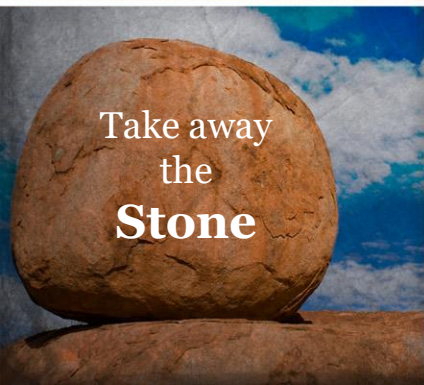


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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of ignorance

- Keeps many from coming to Jesus
 - some choose ignorance
 - some influenced by teachings of men
 - some think they are ok in spite of what scripture says





Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of ignorance

- **Acts 17:30-31**
- **Ephesians 5:17**
- **John 8:32**



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of ignorance

- Jesus came to dispel ignorance
- **Cf. Luke 2:41, 46-50**
- **John 10:37-38**
- **John 6:44-45, 8:31-32, 14:9** – He reveals the Father
- **John 15:22** – now they have no excuse



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of pride

- Pride keeps many from obeying God
 - He thinks too highly of himself
 - He is satisfied where he is at and will not admit he is in error



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of pride

- Pride is dangerous
- **Proverbs 16:18** – goes before destruction
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** – let him who thinks he stands...



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of pride

- Surrender to God requires humility
 - **Matthew 5:3**
 - **Romans 12:3**
 - **James 4:10**



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of pride

- Jesus, our example of humility
 - **Philippians 2:5-8**
 - He humbled Himself before Pilate & accusers



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of stubbornness

- Pride often breeds stubbornness. One unwilling to yield
 - **cf. 1 Samuel 15:22-23**
 - **cf. Luke 15:28** – the other brother
- **James 3:17** – wisdom from above



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of stubbornness

- Consider Jesus – He yielded to the Father
 - **Matthew 26:39**
 - BUT He never compromised



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of indifference

- Many are apathetic and do not care what happens. Live for the moment.
 - Others hardened because of the brokenness around and shut their eyes
 - Some have been taken advantage of



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of indifference

- When it comes to our salvation, we cannot afford to be indifference - **Hebrews 2:3**

We have to care and our eternity depends on it

– **James 2:14-17, Matthew 25:31-46**

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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of indifference

- Jesus cared!
It is seen in the many wonderful works He did
He cared enough to die for us – **Romans 5:6-8**



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of bitterness

- Life is often hard and even unfair! IF not controlled, it can build a wall that is nearly impossible to penetrate.



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of bitterness

- We must put away bitterness –
 - **Hebrews 12:14-15**
 - **Ephesians 4:31-32**
 - **James 3:14-15**

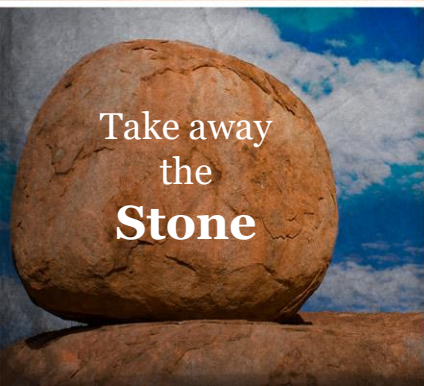


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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of bitterness

- Jesus was not bitter
 - He had reason to be, but He chose to accept His plight because we needed it.
 - **Hebrews 12:2-3** – with “joy” He endured the cross
 - He restored Peter, etc.





Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of unforgiveness

- The Bible is clear – if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven!
 - **Mark 11:25-26**
 - **James 2:13**
 - **cf. Matthew 5:23-25**



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of unforgiveness

- Jesus is the ultimate example of forgiveness –

Ephesians 1:7

Luke 23:34



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of procrastination

- **Acts 24:25** – Paul reasoned with Felix, but he put off Paul.
- Many today hear God’s word and know they need to change – but they put it off



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of procrastination

- We cannot afford to put off making ourselves right with God

2 Corinthians 6:2
cf. Acts 22:16



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Are there “stones” in your life?

The barrier of procrastination

- Jesus did not put off what needed to be done for our salvation!

Mark 1:38 – He went from town to town

Ultimately, He died – **cf. John 18:4-5** – in the garden;


John 18:37 – before Pilate



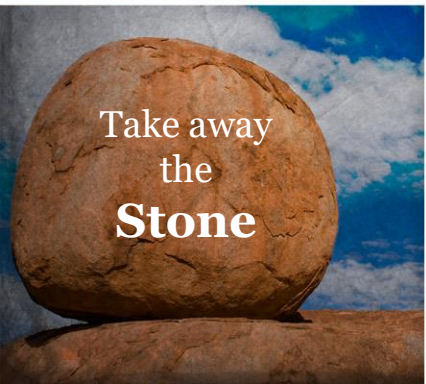
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Are there “stones” in your life?



Are there “stones” keeping you from drawing closer to God?

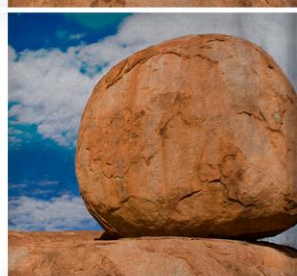
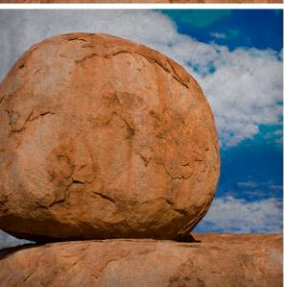


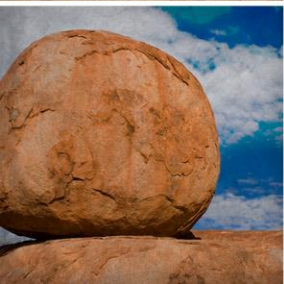
As we have seen, Jesus is not only the solution to giving us life, He is also the example!

Hebrews 12:1-2

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Are there “stones” in your
life that need to be
removed?





Let us pray!

