



message series | may-august 2019

# STRANGERS:

loving from the margins



The Rejected → The Central

The Temple (the building) → Priests (occupants)

A Bunch of Nobodies → Special Possession

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

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame."

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.

But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,"

and,

"A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him  
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are the people of God;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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Karen Jobes

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