

Sermon Series: “At the Foot of the Cross”—Lord of Life, Westfield – Holy Thr 08

Title: “I’m no rock!”

Intro: Ills.: Shattered glass dropped on unforgiving tile floor

Text: *Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. . ." Jesus replied, "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." Mat 16: 15-18*

He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." Mat 21:44

Broken or crushed by the rock

- When we become our own rock of salvation the Rock will crush us
 1. Peter with his self-sufficient religion was led to a crushing moment
 - a. Wanting to show Jesus in the fishing boat (Luke 5)
 - b. Wanting to impress Jesus on the water (Mat 14)
 - c. Wanting to be “loved” by Jesus in his pride (Mat 26)
 - d. Broken by his own stubborn pride and fall (Mat 26: 75–“wept bitterly”)
 2. Often, before we come to Jesus to be built into the rock of faith we must be broken
 - a. *"My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, the grave is ready for me. Job 17:1*
- Falling upon Jesus, the Rock of our salvation, we will be raised and be made whole
 1. Peter could not comprehend how Jesus could forgive him but he did
 - a. In the Body and Blood shed for him (in the Upper Room)
 - b. In the crucifixion and resurrection (at the Empty Tomb)
 - c. In the post-Easter restoration (at the lakeside breakfast)
 - d. Peter several decades later would write, *“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.’” 1 Peter 2:6*
 2. Tonight, we come to fall upon the Rock at the table of His meal
 - a. To confront, confess, and be healed of our sinfulness
 - b. To be restored by the “real presence” of Jesus in the meal
 - c. To be restored to the family of God by forgiveness and through forgiveness
 - d. *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*
 - e. **Ills.: New Hampshire Landmark Crumbles**

Jayne O’Conner said, "I grew up thinking that someone was watching over me. I feel a little less watched over now." She was talking about the Old Man of the Mountain, a 40-foot tall natural outcropping of granite ledges in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, which looked like the profile of an old man. Two hundred years ago Nathaniel Hawthorn wrote a famous story about it: "The Great Stone Face." The image was on New Hampshire license plates and quarters and about a million souvenirs; it was the official state emblem. Sometime on May 1 or 2, 2003, in a heavy fog, the 700-ton face fell. It broke apart and slid down the mountain in the dark. Steven Heath, one of the residents of nearby Franconia Notch, said, "It's something that has been a part of our lives forever. At first it was disbelief. No one could believe he came down. It's like a member of your family dying." Another man said, "I'm absolutely devastated by this. It makes you wonder if God is unhappy with what is going on." There are times when it seems the most

dependable, reliable presence in your life disappears into the fog in the middle of the night. The next morning, that "mountain" you've depended on is gone, and "it makes you wonder if God is unhappy." But the Bible teaches again and again there is only one Rock that will never crumble: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." **Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois; source: "Visitors Mourn Loss of N.H. Mountain Icon" and "State Grieves Loss of Mountain Man," Chicago Tribune (5-05-03)**