

Short & Sweet: The Stone



Short and Sweet Nourishment
for the Soul

⁶ *"And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus," Ephesians 2:6*

*"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and **reflect** the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." 2 Corinthians 3:18*

*"Let your light **shine** before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

I sat with my back propped against my husband's legs. My sweatshirt felt good against my skin as the northern summer breezes flowed landward off Lake Michigan. The tall sea-green beach grasses wafted gently in the water. The sunset promised to be a keeper. My heart felt as content as the unusually peaceful waters of the Great Lake.

My eyes scanned the horizon like a seasoned sailor, counting the moments until the great event – the setting of the sun. We

Michiganders take our sunsets seriously. Tourists and natives alike dotted the dunes along the shore. Watching. Waiting.



As the sun slipped lower in the sky, something caught my attention along the shore; a quiet radiance amid thousands of dark cool stones at the waters edge; one **stone** made brilliant by the setting of the sun. Loathe to disturb my comfort, I turned my head for a better view of the shining pebble.

Why a **stone**?

It stood like a lighthouse among its dull counterparts, beaming and casting its light. I marveled that such a small object could make so great an impact. A rock. Plain. Small. Unremarkable. Why a **stone**? Why not a diamond? Or a ruby? Just *one* small, plain **stone**.

Why *one* stone?

Thousands of millions of stones line the beaches of the northern Great Lakes ... tossed and tumbled ... worn smooth by relentless waves of time. But, only one glimmered in the sunset. Why? Three reasons: Position. Reflection. Water. The small rock, washed with water, was in the right position to reflect the light of the sun.

“And you are living stones ...

... that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.”

We are His stones. Small. Plain. Unremarkable. Made of clay. But, as living stones we can have great influence for three reasons: Position. Reflection. Water. *Position* in Christ. *Reflection* of His glory. Living *Water*. God has placed us on beaches of this earth, among the thousands of millions of people tossed and tumbled by the relentless waves of deception, to reflect His glory and truth in the darkness. Soaked by Living Water, we shine and reflect His light, enabling others to find their way to the Father.

Let your light shine before men.

Action Points:

1. How can you let your light shine?
2. Name something specific you can do today to shine God's light to those around you.
3. Do you tend to shut down your light around certain people? Why?

Life is sweet.

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