

# BUILT UPON

MATTHEW 16:13-23

1. Fix your eyes on \_\_\_\_\_, and take *only glances* at the world.

**Matthew 16:22-23** [22] And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." [23] But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

**C.S. Lewis:** *If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for this present world were just those who thought most of the next. The apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman empire, the Great Men who built up the Middle Ages, the English evangelicals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark on Earth precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you will get neither.*

**Go Deeper:** Read Ephesians Chapter 6 verses 10-20 (esp. vs 12). What does this tell you about how we should live in the two realms (spiritual & physical)? Why is verse 12 so important? How can you stay focused on the Spiritual reality and only glance at the physical?

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2. A \_\_\_\_\_, *placed by God*, should not be ignored.

**1 Peter 2:7-8** [7] So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." **They stumble because they disobey the word...**

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Go Deeper:** Have you ever experienced a *negative* stumbling block to your faith? What did it look like? What about a *positive* stumbling block to your faith? Something that changes your direction in a positive way? In what ways has the Word of God been a positive stumbling block in your life? Before you finish, read the passage below. What new insights do you have?

**1 Peter 2:4-9** [4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." [7] So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. [9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

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