

**St. Sebastian, Milwaukee**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020 Mother's Day**

Mike Kamenski

Reflections -

MUSIC

**“Jesus Is a Rock In a Weary Land”** (trad. gospel style)

Link 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1OvoaZCDus>

Link 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7IFbxh8MvY>

Music Notes:

Given today's second reading about the stone rejected becoming the “cornerstone”, I wanted to share a recording of this famous gospel hymn – “Jesus is a Rock”. You may recall that our adult choir has sung a version of this from time to time at church.

Link 1: This first link is a very high-quality rendition, assembled in today's digital audio and video world for us to enjoy.

Link 2: While I was searching through multiple options, I stumbled upon an historic recording of this very hymn by none other than “Frank Sinatra and the Charioteers.” I never knew that he recorded this hymn. I hope you enjoy a most unique version by one of the greatest singers of all time!

REFLECTION

**“Finding Value Where Others See None”**

Mike Kamenski

Are you a treasure hunter, one who scours the rummage sales and 7-mile fairs of our world, looking for something of great value that others have passed over?

My dad was like that. He “religiously” went nearly every Sunday to 7-mile fair (south of Milwaukee on I94) with his bag over his shoulder, eager to fill it with treasures that others missed (yes, we did go to church every “Sunday” – but Saturday was our day).

I suspect that if you were asked to name one or two of the most influential people in your life, you would select someone who saw something special in you when others did not. Moreover, that person would have shared his/her awareness with

you so that YOU were aware AND... not stopping there, they would help you to develop that “something special” which others did not see.

Perhaps you have been such a mentor to others, helping them to find value in themselves when neither they nor others perceived it. There are some great sports coaches, some great spiritual leaders, some great teachers, and some great parents (to name but a few) who have the gift to see greatness and then to help someone develop and grow into that greatness.

Jesus found value where others saw none. Jesus saw wine where others saw water. Jesus saw life when others saw death (think “Lazarus”). Jesus saw saint when others saw sinner (think of countless people whom Jesus lifted up – Matthew the crooked tax collector, the Woman caught in adultery...).

Jesus, who was of ultimate “value”, was the “stone rejected by the builders”. He was the prophet ridiculed in his own land. He was the criminal crucified. And yet Jesus became the “cornerstone” and a “stone that will make people fall”.

We are challenged this Sunday to see with the eyes of God – to find value in people rejected by others. This is not easy sight to acquire. Humility, faith and courage are required lenses for us to lift up the lowly who are cast down.

Where will we find the rejected stones of our country, of our church, of our world, in our families, and make of them cornerstones of hope?

To begin, please consider that, in God’s eyes, each one of us is the most precious creation God could have ever conceived – every one of us! If we cannot accept our own value, we cannot find it in others. Then with compassionate hearts, open ears and healing hands, we walk through the 7-mile fairs of our lives and, if we look with “God-glasses”, we will see value where others see none. And if you are afraid of not knowing what next to do, fear not; God will provide. God will give you encouraging words, a forgiving heart, an empowering spirit, which will transform the world into “the Kingdom” here and now.

It is that close. The cornerstone... has already been laid!