# Reading: Mark 12, Psalm 118:22-28, and Isaiah 28:16

**Stephen Kimpel**

When you are in a tense or stressful situation, what comes out of you? When the moment is rough and your mindset is dreary, how do you respond? Do you lash out in anger? Do you pull back in passive-aggressive silence? What comes to mind? What would you do?

The answer to these questions and others like them can be thought-provoking to say the least! If we were to have our actions, and more precisely our motives, exposed in stressful situations, I wonder what would be revealed.  When tensions are high, character is revealed.

In the week leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus responded to incredible stress with incomprehensible grace. In one of His final teachings before His death, Jesus asked the crowd a question in Mark 12:10-11.

**10**Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:   
“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**11**the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

In the face of incredible stress, both literally and figuratively, **Jesus IS Rock Solid**!

In Mark 12, Jesus is under incredible pressure and it is not sin that comes out, but scripture. Jesus had God-honoring song lyrics on His mind when life was tough! Jesus explained how He was and is the cornerstone which was rejected.

This is a marvelous truth that is worth our focus this morning. As we spend time meditating this morning, be reminded that we are not aiming to empty our minds, but rather to be filled with scripture by the power of the Holy Spirit! We are not aiming to focus just on specific words, but on the God about whom those words were written.

**Activity**: For our third meditation, read the verses below and spend time in prayer. Focus, Journal, and Pray specifically about Jesus as the cornerstone. What is being revealed about God? Why is it significant for your situation today?

**Psalm 118:22-28**

**22**The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **23**the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. **24**The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. **25**Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! **26**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. **27**The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar **28**You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**Isaiah 28:16**

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

***19****Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,* **20***built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.* **21***In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.* **22***And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*