

Rock of Ages...Hearts of Stone

From tough to tears:

Up	The Iron Giant
Ole Yeller	Marley & Me
Toy Story	Cats in the Hat
Lion King	The Giving Tree

The Diagnosis

12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 7:12

Grief, sin, and disappointment can do that to us. We turn our hearts into stone so we don't feel pain, guilt, or shame anymore. Stone doesn't break, but stone also can't feel.

The Miracle

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

God is looking at His people who have become spiritually cold, metallic, and unresponsive. He declares, 'I am going to replace that heart of iron with a heart of flesh.'

The Result

27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. Ezekiel 36:27-28

God doesn't just hand us a rulebook and say, 'Figure it out'. He says, 'I will put My Spirit inside you.' Life isn't about trying to imitate a distant God...it's about the Living God changing our hearts and moving us from the inside out.

Ezekiel 36 Promises:

- A new heart
- A new identity

A new purpose

The Rejected Stone

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Matthew 21:42

Never judge your worth or truth by culture's standards. Culture rejected Jesus. Align your values with what God honors...not what the world praises.

The Cornerstone

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. Isaiah 28:16

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:20

Check your priorities against Christ. Are your marriage, career, and finances squared up to His word, or are you trying to force Him to fit your “blueprint”?

The Stumbling Stone

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 1 Peter 2:7-8

You cannot simply bypass Jesus. Attempting to live independently of Him turns the Savior into your ultimate stumbling block. Surrender your pride to Him today.

God is our Fortress, Shield, and Unchanging Rock FOREVER

Invitation: *“Yes I Will”*

Closing: *“Step by Step”*