

The Potter and the Clay

Who is the Potter? *God*
Who is the clay? *We are*

Isaiah 64:8 answers these questions.

Let's look at **Jeremiah 18: 1-6**

Pray

1) In the Potter's hand, Jeremiah sees the clay. A thing of no particular beauty, just an ugly lump of clay – helpless to improve its condition but capable of receiving and retaining the design wrought by the potter.

Clay is so common that it's practically valueless. Left to itself, clay would remain clay, but yielded to the shaping hand there are no limits to its possibilities.

Something that I thought was interesting when I looked up the word potter, it was talking about the clay. Here is what it said:

“Course matter can be used in carrying quantities to achieve particular effects. A certain amount of course grain in the clay helps the vessel retain its shape in firing and potters using fine – grained clays often temper the clay by adding coarser materials such as sand; fine stone, ground shells or grog before kneading the clay into a workable condition.

What are the coarser materials in our lives? *Any trial we may go through such as – bereavement; poverty; sickness; hardships – whether at work or in the family, etc.*

Each and everything we go through – God is using it to mold us and shape us into the kind of vessel He wants. A lot of times through my life I have gone through many trials and tribulations (rough first marriage that ended in divorce; raising 2 sons alone for 10 years, one of which is special needs; the death of their father through suicide; the death of my father;) the list could go on and on, but as I look back and even though there were times when I asked “why” or times when I told the Lord to go pick on someone else, He was faithful (and still is) molding and making me into what He wants. When I ask “*Why are you doing this Lord?*” He says “*I'm making a vessel, a beautiful vessel*”

2) Jeremiah saw a vessel of beauty emerging from that unpromising clay.

The molding of human lives is no experiment to God. He does things perfectly. Everything to which He puts His hand He does perfectly. It is our human nature to assume the role of the potter, which belongs to God alone. We take our lives into our own hands, arrogantly calling ourselves the molders of our destiny.

Sometimes when we approach God, We say “*God, give me what you want to give me, I am ready for change, anything that is within your will for my life.*” But often times, we don’t want change, just a “REDO” job for the moment to ‘feel good’. But to be a real pot that shines before God, you have to be willing to be changed forever, from top to bottom, head to toe, from within to without...nothing untouched by His power!

When we come to the Potter, we need to surrender all to Him – all our cracks, our imperfections – and let Him be the Master of the pot. Let Him mold us, make us into the vessel of honor that he wants. Let Him make us into an individual shining example of what we can be in Him.

Read **Romans 9:21**

The Heavenly Potter recognizing the fact that no two human beings are the same, doesn’t deal with us on mass, but bestows on each His individual and undivided attention. His dealings with each of us are unique and exclusive. Do you feel like your pot is not like someone else’s? Maybe you think yours has a crack in it and you cannot be used.

Read story “Cracked Pot”

Are you willing to be molded and made by the master potter? Are you going to complain and say, “Lord, why are you doing this to me?” or will you remember that He’s shaping a vessel for His own use.

When you sing the song “Have thine own way Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.”

Is that truly the desires of your heart? That the Lord will continue to mold and make you so you will be a vessel for His use? Or are you trying to help Him out?

May we all be sincere when we say mold me and make me after Thou will. May we all step out of the way and allow God to make us into the vessel He wants.

Close in prayer.