

## THE POTTER'S HOUSE #1 SPLAT IS WHERE IT'S AT

When God wants Jeremiah to understand his dealings with Israel he sends him to the potters house to observe the craftsmanship of the potter.

Jeremiah **18** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord : <sup>2</sup>“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>6</sup>“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the Lord . NIV

He saw wheels, one at the bottom and one at the top. The larger wheel was at the bottom being worked by the feet to turn the smaller wheel at the top. This disc would hold the clay to the shaping and molding by his fingers.

The potter’s work doesn’t start at the wheel but first as a desire in the potter’s heart.

### **I. THE POTTER WORKS WITH CLAY. V3**

A. There is a **SEARCH** for special clay.

What at picture of salvation. Jesus said, “You did not chose me but I have chosen you.”

God has sought you out! He says of you “I see potential, someone I can use, someone I can love”.

B. The Potter must pay a **PRICE** for the clay.

This special clay is not free. He must buy it. This salvation that we enjoy cost something. It is not cheap.

It is an insult to Calvary to reduce salvation to “mental assent”; to imply that eventually all will be saved, which is universalism.

**Redemption is a monetary term.** 1Peter 1 <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. NIV

C. The Potter has a **DESIGN** for the clay.

**The design of the vessel determines its use.**

Perfume bottle- Do people smell the savor of Christ in your life?

Pitcher- Do others drink from your life?

A vessel for keeping precious things?

Do others see the treasure of Christ in your earthen vessel?

It is in discovering our usefulness for Christ that our happiness consists.

You can only find it by being faithful.

**II. THE POTTER USES THE WHEEL TO GIVE SHAPE.**

A. The clay was marred.

Our imperfections are revealed at the wheel.

The clay must have the impurities taken out of it. The dirt and foreign materials that would keep it from being pliable in the potter's hands must be removed.

B. The wheel is where the clay **SUBMITS** to the hands of God.

The clay must be mashed, and pressed to get the bubbles out. The air has to be taken out of it. Have you ever felt like God took the air out of you?

C. The work at the wheel involves **TIME**.

God doesn't give up. He kept working with the clay attempting to make it into what he wanted it to be. We get exasperated. We ask, "God why is this taking so much time?"

Ill. Moses was marred. He isn't used by God until he is 80. He had to herd sheep 40 years before God could use him.

Ill. Joshua is 85 when God said, "you have been the youth pastor long enough. It is time to be Sr. Pastor."

D. The wheel is a place of **FRICION**.

When you think you are about ready to be used, splat! God starts changing you. He starts reworking the marred vessel.

We get offended with God because he is "rubbing us the wrong way".

E. He is working with **CHARACTER FLAWS**.

Flaws like impatience, control and dominance issues, anger, inability to trust others, a man fearing spirit, honesty, moodiness, laziness etc.

This is why some people won't stay at a church.

This is why some people won't submit to leadership.

This is why some pastor's won't stay at a church.

The pastor's character flaws are revealed.

Ill. Pastor bragged he had 20 years experience. He was ask how many churches he has pastured and how long at each one.

An elder said, "No, you have 2 years experience 10 times."

This is why some people don't stay in a marriage.

Ill. As an evangelist I never had to a chance for my character flaws to be corrected. By leaving I never had an opportunity for my character flaws to be corrected. I never had to learn how to get along with people. I never had to learn to solve problems, just leave them.

It is staying in a relationship until a character flaw is revealed. Instead of staying on the wheel and working out the flaw we just leave!

We must have relationships that create change in us. That helps us to see the flaws in our lives. Relationships that help get the grain of sand out on the wheel.