

THE POTTER'S HOUSE #3 FOUR HEARTS IN THE VESSEL

Jeremiah 18 ¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ² Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. ³ Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁶ O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand,

For two weeks we have examined the relationship of the clay and the wheel, and the potter and clay relationship. Today we shall examine the four hearts of the vessel.

1. THE HEART IN THE LUMP OF CLAY IS A HEART FILLED WITH SELF.

A. It is unyielding (stubborn)

Dubb said last week as he was working the clay, "Brother I could not get the clay to do anything. It is just had a mind of its own".

B. It is hard (set in its own way)

The hard clay can only be softened by the water. You and I cannot change anyone's heart or desire. We attempt everything possible to soften the heart of the person we want to reach. Yet it takes the "water" to soften the hard clay.

1. The water could represent the Word.

The Word is like...

- a. A hammer- it breaks
- b. Fire- it burns, melts, purifies, etc.
- c. Fullers soap- it scrubs clean
- d. Water-it cleanses, softens, etc.

2. The water could represent the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is...

- a. The revealer of truth
- b. Reveals the person of Jesus Christ

c. Convicts and convinces

2. THE HEART OF THE VESSEL IS OPEN REPRESENTS THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE

A. The clay must be pushed back.

God wants to use us but he insists that our humanity be subdued. Too often people see too much of us and not enough of Jesus.

The old you must be taken back out of the way.

Colossians 3⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ephesians 4²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

B. The clay becomes a container

Isn't this a picture of the heart of a disciple?

1. He is open to **receive** all that God wants to put in him.
2. He is no longer full of himself

It can now take in. It has room for something to fill it other than himself.

3. THE OPEN HEART THAT IS FIRE REPRESENTS THE HEART OF A SERVANT.

A. It is fired to make it durable.

Being a servant does not mean to be wimpy but rather strong.

We are to endure hardness as a good soldier.

We will be "taken advantage of".

We will be "taken for granted"

We will be "unappreciated"

But the fire has made us durable. Listen to the durability of a servant's heart.

2Corinthians 4 ⁷ But we have this **treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.** ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

B. It is fired so it can get dirty

The servant of the Lord or the vessel if he is going to be used is made for service. When it is used it will get dirty.

To minister to people especially the unsaved we must get dirty. You have to listen to stuff you don't want to hear, see things you don't want to see, be where you don't want to be.

We are "in the world but not of the world"!

4. THE SEALED HEART OF THE VESSEL REPRESENTS THE HEART OF A SAINT.

1. The outside of the vessel may get dirty but beneath the seal it can't get dirty.

What has been covered by the blood of Jesus and sealed by the Holy Spirit cannot be uncovered.

The heart of the saint is "the righteousness of God" in Him.

2. It has no flaws.

III. It was not unusual when a vessel was fired for it to crack. To prevent it from leaking they would take wax and conceal the crack. When it would be put to use later it would leak because the wax would melt when it the vessel was put under heat.

An honest craftsmen would advertise his wares as "sincere" meaning "without wax".

He would be saying this is not a "cracked pot".

That is where the saying, "He is a cracked pot" came from.

We are not a bunch of crack pots. The child of God is the real deal!
What you see is what you get.

3. This heart sings.

Psalms 40² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,
Out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock,
And established my steps.

³ He has put a new song in my mouth—
Praise to our God;
Many will see *it* and fear,
And will trust in the Lord .

When the Potter is ready to use you the song will come, the service you
render is pleasing, people see Jesus in you.