

THE POTTER'S HOUSE #4 THE BROKEN VESSEL

Jeremiah 18 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord : ²“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But 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.

⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the Lord . “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand NIV

There are levels of recreation that God uses to remake the vessel.

I. God can recreate what is in his hands.

⁴But 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.

God could recreate because:

1. The clay was in his hands, not on the floor. (hard)
2. Clay is a drinker therefore while it is his hands it remains shapeable.
3. When we don't fit God's original plan for our life then he reshapes us.
4. As long as we are willing to be marred in his hands we will not have to be broken.

This is the process of the early stages of our relationship with God.

II. God can recreate what is on the ground. (potsherds.)

Isaiah 45 ⁹“Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker,
to him who is but **a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground.**
Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say,
‘He has no hands’? NIV

1. Potsherd's represent a **broken relationship**

In Jeremiah 19 God tells the prophet to buy a vessel from the potter and break it on the wall in the presence of the people. This signified that God was breaking or severing his relationship with his people. All that it takes for an unfinished or sealed piece of pottery to be reformed was to break it and put it in water. All that it took to be reshaped was to lose its identity!

However if it was fired and sealed the process is more critical. When it is fired it is heated to a temperature of 1,900 degrees.

It is no longer a drinker of water but a bearer of water.

2. A potsherd is **a broken piece of pottery.**

- a. Potsherd in Hebrew is “Austica”.
It is the root for the word “austica”
- b. When people voted they would pick up a piece of potsherd to vote on someone being “austica” by writing on it yes or no.
- c. The condition of our world is in verse 9. We are just broken clay among many others broken pieces.

3. The potsherd is **on the ground.**

This is a clear indication that something serious has taken place.
How was it broken?

WAYS WE ARE BROUGHT TO BROKENNESS

- * divorce *pride *financial lose *fear *willful sin
- * rejection *death *anger *rebellion *failure of an authority figure

Has something happened that has brought you to the ground?

4. The potsherd can be **recreated.**

The potsherd may once have been a valuable vessel; Fired, painted, and usable. Now it is nothing, just useless.

Watch what the potter can do.

- a. Marred clay in his hands only needs water.
Dried broken clay on the ground only needs water.
The Holy Spirit can soften.

- b. Fired clay must be ground into “**grog**”

Clay when it is placed in the furnace becomes glass.
Therefore because it is **HARD** and cannot take on moisture
it must be ground to powder.

It must lose its **IDENTITY**

Naomi has been broken in Moab. When she returns to
Bethlehem she asks not to be called Naomi, but Mara
meaning “bitter”.

When the prodigal son has been broken he returns saying
“I am not worthy to be called a son but make me a servant”.

It must be **MIXED with more clay.**

Then it can take on moisture again. It can be reshaped.
It can return to the fire for hardness and sealing.

God will through nothing away that is **USEABLE.**

- c. The potsherd when recreated **sings**

Psalms 40 ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

³ **He put a new song in my mouth,**
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord . NIV

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

