

***ON THE POTTER'S WHEEL***  
**Jeremiah 18:1-6**

**Woodland Park Church of Christ**  
**8 December 2019**

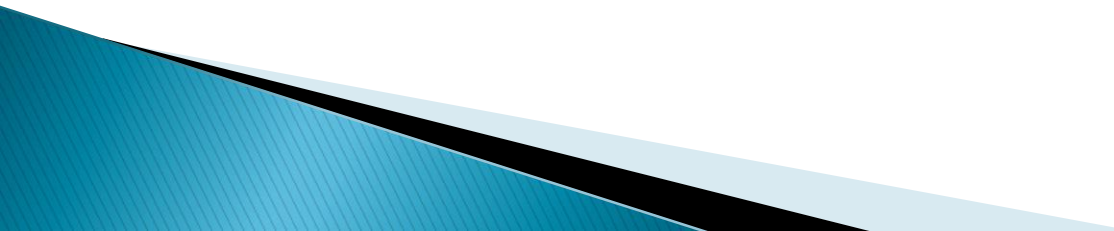
*The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” <sup>3</sup> Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. <sup>4</sup> And **the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.** <sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: <sup>6</sup> **“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD.** “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! Jeremiah 18:1–6*

# JEREMIAH (The Weeping Prophet)

- ▶ Ministered to Judah from about 627 – 586 B.C.
- ▶ Ministered under Judah's last five kings – Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.
- ▶ Served while Habakkuk ministered to Israel.
- ▶ Witnessed Judah's captivity by Babylon.
- ▶ **Paradigmatic verse:** *Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the Lord your God, and the fear of Me is not in you, says the Lord God of hosts.* Jeremiah 2:19

God wants to work and form us into useful, trustworthy, faithful, foolproof, enduring, sturdy, impregnable, and reliable vessels.

As unproductive and utterly useless as the clay may be in its simple state, two distinct factors give it hope –

- ▶ Malleability (able to be formed and shaped);
  - ▶ Potential (the potter has something to work with).
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*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

**II Peter 3:9**



# Our Lives:Akin to Clay being Shaped

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you **both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure**. Philippians 2:12–13

**Must submit to a life and course of dying to and denying self!**

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”<sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16:24–25*

# So, what takes one off the Potter's Wheel?

- ▶ Simply, something we want to hold on to and not relinquish.
  - Bad temper
  - Pride / Arrogance
  - An unforgiving spirit
  - Greed
  - Fornication
  - Habits / behaviors that are contrary to the Potter's will for your life



Family circumstances (generational misgivings (curses)) do not provide excuse for disobedience. See King Josiah (Grandfather and father were two of the most wicked kings Judah knew , yet he obeyed God and valiantly led Judah down the path of righteousness). II Kings 21– 22

Crafty explanations / cutting-edge arguments don't justify not submitting to the will of God. Highlights one of the issues with "higher education." The "I am smarter" mentality. *But God's foolishness is wiser than man's wisdom.* I Corinthians 1:25

# BEING ON THE WHEEL REQUIRES SELF-DEPRIVATION

*Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

*<sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "*

*<sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." <sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him,*

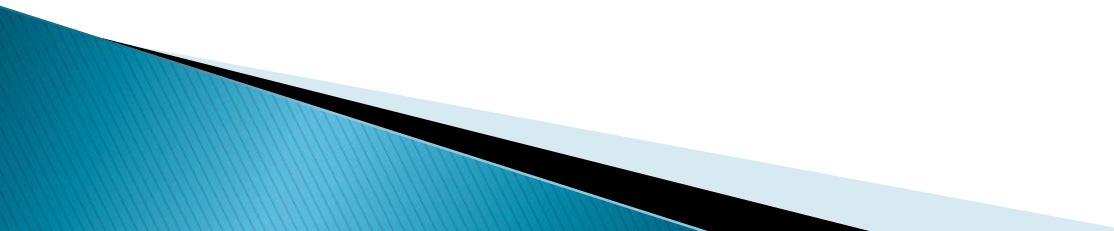
***"You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."** <sup>23</sup> **But***

***when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.** Luke 18:18-23*

# THE KEY

The satisfaction to be gained from achieving the goal or getting the prize must be greater than the pleasure derived by not going through the crucible!

# THE FINISHED VESSEL

- ▶ The end result is simply remarkable – it bears the stamp and mark of its creator.
  - ▶ **A shapeless, otherwise useless, blob of clay (composite) has become something useful and serviceable**
  - ▶ While God is still working on us, there can be noticeable signs of progress.
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# The Potter Makes Different Vessels

- ▶ Different vessels having varying purposes may be found in the Potter's pantry
  - Utensils
  - Food and beverage holders (platters & water pitchers)
  - Artwork
  - Planters (flower pots)
- ▶ Because functions are different, the features and properties of the vessels are not the same
- ▶ Don't dismay because He constructed you a little differently from someone else

So long as we function to serve Him  
and conform to His will, our souls are in  
good stead!

For You formed my innermost parts;  
You knit me [together] in my mother's  
womb. <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks *and* praise to  
You, *for I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made; wonderful are Your works, and  
my soul knows it very well.* Psalm 139:13–  
14 (AMP)

*But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> No, much rather, **those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.** <sup>23</sup> And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, <sup>25</sup> that there should be no schism in the body, but that the **members should have the same care for one another.** <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. I Cor. 12:20–26*

# RAMIFICATIONS

Example to those following. See Proverbs 13:22

Crucifying the flesh and showing what it is like to live for the Lord

More rewarding and meaningful life





## Parallel of Christ and Samuel

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and men.*

**Luke 2:52**

*But the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with God and man. I*

**Samuel 2:26**

Both gained favor in sight of God and man . . .

This wouldn't be possible if they had not become  
**PUTTY IN GOD'S HANDS!**

# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

## ▶ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7);

Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37, 15:7);

Repent of sins (Acts 2:38);

Confess Christ (Acts 8:37);

Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38);

or

# Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord (1 John 1:8–9); or**
- ▶ **Desire prayer (James 5:16).**

***LIVE VICTORIOUSLY BLESSED!***