

The Potter, The Clay, and Cracked Pots (Jeremiah 18:1-6)

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The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

This is the word that came to
Jeremiah from the LORD :

"Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. 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....

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

Then the word of the LORD came to me: "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, O house of Israel. (Jeremiah 18:1-6)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

1. The Potter Shapes the Course of Our Lives

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

(Jeremiah 18:6b)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

1. The Potter Shapes the Course of Our Lives

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?
(Isaiah 29:16)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

1. The Potter Shapes the Course of Our Lives

Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"? (Isaiah 29:16)

- **Some Deny the potter:**
 "He did not make me"
- **Some Defy the potter:**
 "He knows nothing"

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

- **FALSE: I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul. - Invictus, William E. Henley**

**I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own;
it is not for man to direct his steps. (Jeremiah 10:23)**

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

- **FALSE: I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.**

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

(Romans 8:28)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

2. The Potter Has the Right to Shape Our Lives

"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this
potter does?" declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 18:6a)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

2. The Potter Has the Right to Shape Our Lives

**“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’
(Isaiah 45:9)**

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

2. The Potter Has the Right to Shape Our Lives

“But who are you—anyone who talks back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ Or has the potter no right over His clay, to make from the same lump one piece of pottery for honor and another for dishonor?” (Romans 9:21-22)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

3. The Potter Uses Pressure to Shape Our Lives

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.
(Jeremiah 18:6)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

3. The Potter Uses Pressure to Shape Our Lives

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! (2 Cor. 4:16-17)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

4. The Potter Has The Power to Re-shape Our Lives

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. (Jeremiah 18:4)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

4. The Potter Has The Power to Re-shape Our Lives

- Even in the times when God is correcting us we should say,
“Yet Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter...” (Isaiah 64:8)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

5. We Are A Work in Progress

So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him
working at the wheel.

(Jeremiah 18:3)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

5. We Are A Work in Progress

“Yet Lord, You are our Father;
we are the clay,
and You are our potter;
we all are the work of Your hands.”
(Isaiah 64:8)

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6. The Cracks Are Where The Treasure Shines Through

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that
this all-surpassing power is from God and not
from us.

(2 Corinthians 4:7)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

6. The Cracks Are Where The Treasure Shines Through

Through our wounds people can see the Lord's glory,
healing, and power.

As we heal and are changed, God's glory shines
through us more and more!!

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

7. A Clean Vessel is a Useful Vessel

“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver bowls, but also those of wood and earthenware, some for special use, some for ordinary. So if anyone purifies himself from these things,

(2 Timothy 2:20-21a)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

7. A Clean Vessel is a Useful Vessel

We must allow the Holy Spirit's cleansing work in our hearts.

We must be open to God's sanctifying work in our lives.

Allowing God to refine us as "gold and silver" and not burnt up like "wood and earthenware."

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

7. A Clean Vessel becomes a Useful Vessel

**“he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to
the Master, prepared for every good work.”**

(2 Timothy 2:21b)

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

7. A Clean Vessel

becomes a Useful Vessel

- The more we allow the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, the more we will be used of God.
- We become vessels of honor, holy, useful to Jesus, and prepared for the works and rewards He has for us!!

The Potter, The Clay and Cracked Pots

LET'S REVIEW:

1. The Potter Shapes the Course of Our Lives
2. The Potter Has the Right to Shape Our Lives
3. The Potter Uses Pressure to Shape Our Lives
4. The Potter Has The Power to Re-shape Our Lives
5. We Are A Work in Progress
6. The Cracks Are Where The Treasure Shines Through
7. A Clean Vessel is a Useful Vessel

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(Jeremiah 18:1-6)

YOU ARE THE POTTER and I AM THE CLAY!

We are in the hands of Almighty God.

**He took us as a “lump of clay” with a dead spirit,
wounded soul, & dying body.**

**In grace, He took us in His hands and began to mold
us.**

YOU ARE THE POTTER and I AM THE CLAY!

He took us, as we were,
with all our faults and failures.

He began to shape us
and the course of our lives.

He sometimes uses
the pressures of our lives
to mold us.

YOU ARE THE POTTER and I AM THE CLAY!

He alone has the “right” and “power” to change our lives because He is God our Creator and we His creation.

In His time and in His way,
He is reshaping our lives.

We are a glorious work in progress.

YOU ARE THE POTTER and I AM THE CLAY!

Our wounds display His glory as He continues to
heal us.

We become vessels of honor, fit for the Master's
service.

Our response is to humbly say,
“Yet Lord, You are our Father;
we are the clay,
and You are our potter...”
(Isaiah 64:8)