

Still In His Hands

Jeremiah 18:1-4: The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

- I. Hearing God requires Humility
 - a. Sometimes our duties get in the way of hearing the voice of the Lord.
 - b. As is often the case, God works opposite...Go down...Humble yourself. You'll be surprised where, and through what, God can speak to you.
 - c. You might lament your faults and failures, but they're just clay in the potter's hand.

- II. Formed With a Purpose
 - a. You are formed, so that you can be filled. You're not an artifact, a piece of history, memorabilia.
 - b. God created you for the present, and He created you for eternity.
 - c. It started with Creation:

Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7: Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground...

- d. He formed us, and then He filled us. He breathed the breath of life into our being.

...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

e. We were not created to walk around, empty...devoid of purpose and identity. The enemy wants to take away your purpose. We can be so full of it. Full of so much...but completely empty of God's purpose for our lives.

f. Be reminded TODAY...You were made for a purpose. God formed you, so that He could fill you.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

g. When you are on the wheel, everything is spinning...FAST. But in the midst of the spinning, never forget whose foot is on the pedal, controlling the wheel. Never forget whose hand is shaping the vessel.

h. You're in the Master's Hand. When He sees us slumping, losing our shape, losing our purpose, losing our identity...He is still in control. It just takes one touch:

1. To redefine our purpose
2. To reshape our heart
3. To breathe life into our empty vessel.

i. You're not perfect, but just STAY ON THE WHEEL, and let the Potter do His work.

III. The Potter is Working

And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. (verse 4)

a. The vessel He was making...the House of Israel. They had purpose, but again they had abandoned it. At that point, they weren't a vessel at all, but a broken distortion of what God intended for them to be.

b. Sometimes God calls you, *in advance*, what He knows you will eventually become.

- He called a shepherd boy named David, King.

c. If you could only see how God sees you. The vessel that He is making. The purpose for which He has formed you, so that He can now fill you, to fulfill it.

- d. God's calling was not a mistake. It wasn't hyperbole. He wasn't getting carried away.
- e. You might not see it now...***The vessel was marred in the hand of the potter...***
 - We must deal with the reality that we can be saved, and in the church, and still be marred.
 - This (Israel) was supposed to be a vessel, but at that present moment, it could not hold what it was intended to hold.
- f. Things may not be what you imagined them to be. This might not be your dream scenario. Maybe that one that you are praying for, you're not seeing the progress that you hoped for.

IV. BUT ***...and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.***

- a. God took it...He took the mess, and reworked it. The purpose wasn't negated.
- b. The enemy has such a desire to distort, diminish, and confuse the identity and the image of God...the purpose that we were created to fulfill.
- c. I've got news for him...The Potter is still at the wheel.
 - The Potter is still setting people free.
 - The Potter is still shaping the lives of the forgotten.
 - The Potter is still healing marriages.
 - The Potter is still uniting families.
 - The Potter is still calling Sons and Daughters.
- d. Maybe the purpose that you thought you were going to fulfill, doesn't look like what is going on, but just stay on the Potter's Wheel.
- e. You're still in His hands. You might have thought you were going to be a cup, but God is making you into a bowl.
- f. Whatever the case...the Potter is at work. You might have grand dreams for your life, and God's purpose is a little different.

I may not be what I was going to be, ***but thank God, I am not what I used to be.*** There's no piece of clay that God can't use. Don't mourn your imperfections, but rejoice that the Master, the perfecter of all things, is at work... and He's just getting started!