

“Thou art the Potter; I am the Clay”

Jeremiah 18:1-10

Jer. 18:1-5

- “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 you to hear My words. 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 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. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:”

Jer. 18:6-10

- “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! 7 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, 10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.”

God Is The Potter

- In the beginning, God formed Adam from the dust of the ground
 - Gen. 2:7 - “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”
- Job understood how he was formed
 - Job 10:9-11 - “Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? 10 Did you not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese, 11 Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews?”

God Is The Potter

- Elihu repeated this to Job
 - Job 33:6 - “Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay”
- The potter has complete power over the clay
 - Isa. 29:16 - “Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, He did not make me? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, He has no understanding?”

God Is The Potter

- We must not criticize our Potter
 - Isa. 45:9 - “Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, What are you making? Or shall your handiwork say, He has no hands?”
 - Isa. 64:8 - “But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.”
- Jeremiah spoke of the princes of Zion as clay
 - Lam. 4:2 - “The precious sons of Zion, Valuable as fine gold, How they are regarded as clay pots, The work of the hands of the potter!”

God Is The Potter

- Paul used this illustration to show the will of God
 - Rom. 9:20-23 - “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, Why have you made me like this? 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory”

God Is The Potter

- God will destroy the wicked like a piece of pottery
 - Jer. 19:10-11 - “Then you shall break the flask in the sight of the men who go with you, 11 and say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even so I will break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again; and they shall bury them in Tophet till there is no place to bury.”
 - Psalm 2:9 - “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.”

We Are The Clay

- When we repent of sin, God reworks us into vessels for honor
 - 2Tim. 2:19-21 - “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

We Are The Clay

- However, as judgment of the vessels is the right of the potter, so judgment of Christians is in God's power.

We Are The Clay

- Matt. 13:24-30 - “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares? 28 He said to them, An enemy has done this. The servants said to him, Do you want us then to go and gather them up? 29 But he said, No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

We Are The Clay

- Matt. 13:36-43 - “Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said to them: He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

We Are The Clay

- Matt. 13:47-48 - “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.”

Marred Pottery Can Be Remade

- God has a form for the home, and all those who choose to disregard His structure suffer for it
 - Prov. 6:20-28 - “My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. 21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?”

Marred Pottery Can Be Remade

- God has a structure for child rearing, and those who think they know more about it than the Almighty bring sorrow into their lives and the lives of their children
 - Prov. 19:18 - “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”
 - Prov. 10:1 - “A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.”

Marred Pottery Can Be Remade

- We often wish we could go back and start over
- The good news is that no matter how much we have messed up our own lives, we can be remade and refreshed spiritually
 - 1Tim. 1:15 - “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

Marred Pottery Can Be Remade

- Rom. 6:17-18 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”
- 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Marred Pottery Can Be Remade

- 1Cor. 6:9-11 - “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”