

Broken & renewed

January 27, 2020

JEREMIAH 18:1-6 NIV - (1) 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." (3) So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. (4) 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. (5) Then the word of the LORD came to me. (6) He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel."

ISAIAH 64:8 NKJV - (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.

The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. When we are open to God's will in our lives, He molds, transforms, and sanctifies us as we walk with Him.

When we come to the Potter, we need to surrender all to Him, all our imperfections and let Him be our Master. We need to let Him mold us and make us the vessel of honor that He wants us to be.

For this to be accomplished, we need to have the knowledge of God's Word before He can start the process of molding us. As the potter places a piece of clay on a wheel he needs water in order to make it pliable and soft enough for him to be able to use it. Jesus is our Living Water and the Bible tells us "... that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." - **Ephesians 5:26-27**

Consequently, the very first step we have to take, if we really want God to mold and shape us into the kind of person He wants us to become, is to spend time in the Word so that we will become pliable and shapeable.

The next step is that the piece of clay needs to be properly centered on the wheel. The reason for this is if a lump of clay is not properly centered on the wheel, it will eventually tear apart before the potter can finish the process. In the same way we have to be properly centered in Jesus Christ before God can start to mold and shape us.

Being centered in Jesus is to have our life fully surrendered to Him where He is in full control. Jesus has to become both Lord and Savior in our life. Just like the potter cannot mold the piece of clay into the piece of pottery that he is trying to make unless it is perfectly centered on the wheel, in the same way the Lord cannot begin to properly work with us unless we are perfectly centered in Him in full surrender.

Once the lump of clay has enough water and is centered on the wheel, then the actual molding process begins. The wheel starts spinning and the potter's hand presses down on the top of the clay to create an opening and moves his hands deep inside the middle of the clay. He continues by constantly shaping it and molding it to result in the vessel he desires it to be.

In the same way, God's own hand literally goes down deep into our soul and spirit where the sanctification work is actually done, molding and transforming us into the saints He wants us to be.

Just as the piece of clay needs to fully trust the potter, in the same way we need to fully trust the Lord to mold, shape, and transform our lives. The clay is totally under His control. It has to be one hundred percent yielded to Him. The clay must yield to the potter's hand if it is to become something useful. For this reason, we need to yield to God by surrendering ourselves completely. Once this is done, we are on our way to a renewal.

SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 9:14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Christ is life.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"