

In the Potter's Hands

The **prophet Isaiah** had helped keep the Israelites from being **taken captive by the Assyrians.....**

Jeremiah, who **lived about 100 years after Isaiah**, desperately **wanted to save the kingdom from being taken by Babylon.**

Jeremiah has been called the **“weeping prophet”** because it saddened him greatly that Jerusalem turned more and more to **idolatry** and **wickedness.**

Our story picks up with God giving instruction to Jeremiah.

******Jeremiah 18:1-6 (KJV) Evan just leave this on the screen when it's used again on the next page.**

¹ 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 thee to hear my words.

³ Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁶ O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

In the opening of Chapter 18, **God was getting ready to give Jeremiah a special message for His people**—but in order for Jeremiah to understand what God was going to tell him—God **sent him to the potter's house** so that Jeremiah would have a **reference point.**

As we read in **verses 3 and 4**, when Jeremiah arrives at the potter's house, he **witnessed the potter making a vessel that was "marred"** (one with a flaw or defect).

The potter realizing what had happened **decided to start all over** so he took the **clay and reshaped it until it pleased him**.

After Jeremiah witnessed the interaction between the potter and the clay:

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁶ O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD.

Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

No matter what comes our way, it is good to know, that **as children of God**, we are **still in the hands of God**. We all **face troubles** (chances are you are either having trouble, just getting over trouble or about to have trouble) in our lives—

We ALL experience:

Pain—Disappointments—Sickness—and, Even Death

There is **something in our lives** that causes **our soul** to be **marred or flawed**

S-I-N

******Romans 3:23 (NASB)**

²³ for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

******Romans 6:23 (NASB)**

²³ For the **wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Not only does Sin bring death is also brings some other terrible things:

Sin Causes:

A Fear It Cannot Remove

A Heartache It Cannot Ease

A Storm It Cannot Still

A Problem It Cannot Solve

And A Burden It Cannot Lift

As Sin Comes Into Our Life It Replaces the Good Things:

Sin Can Replace:

Love With Lust

Joy With Sorrow

Comfort With Pain

Peace With Confusion

Assurance With Anxieties

And Honor With Disgrace

Adam and Eve had just one rule or law they were forbidden to break—partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Sin Entered Death Entered & the Law Entered (taught us how God wanted us to live)

The More Laws—The More Offenses

Sin Is Rampant In This World

Sin is So Rampant Sin Leaves:

No Stone Unturned

No Person Untainted

No Life Untouched

And No Heart Unbroken

Just Maybe:

Your Heart Needs To Be Changed

Your Spirit Needs To Be Renewed

Your Mind Needs To Be Transformed

Your Focus Needs To Be Shifted

Your Identity Needs To Be Clarified

Your Faith Needs To Be Solidified

And Your Testimony Needs To Be Verified

Thank Goodness!

God is Patient—the clay may be marred but not REJECTED! God will remake it into another vessel.

As we read the text, **one might wonder why the potter didn't just do away with the marred clay, and use a fresh, flawless piece.**

Why? Because he knew that if the object that marred it was removed, the vessel could be perfected, and so he tried again.

The prophet **Jeremiah was depressed and disappointed**, because Israel, God's chosen people, **had resisted and rebelled against God.**

Jeremiah worried:

Would God cast Israel aside? Would God take another people to be used for His purpose and praise?

These questions were answered one morning in the potter's house, and it calmed Jeremiah's doubts and fears.

God in His mercy and grace was giving Israel a second chance.

So We Need To Know:

Every Flaw

Every Disfigurement

Every Problem

Is Welcomed At The Potter's House

If You Feel Hopeless

Go To The Potter

If You Feel Helpless

Go To The Potter

If You Feel Burdened Down

Go To The Potter

Because God Is In The Remaking Business

*****2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)**

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

You have the same body you were born into but your soul has had its sin removed.

God Can:

Mold you

Shape you

Break you

Remake you

Whenever and However He deems necessary

The question is—**Are You Allowing God To Mold You And Shape You?**

Notice what He says...²”Arise and go down to the Potter’s house...and there I will cause you to hear My words:

So Jeremiah, the prophet, goes down and sees the Potter making something on the wheel.

⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was **marred** in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

The King James Version says it was **marred**—but other versions say it was **marked, stained, or spoiled**

The word **marred** means: **Damaged, defaced, to spoil the quality of; a mark that disfigures, blemish**

We have all been marred by sin, we were defaced, disfigured and blemished, and God has to do a work on us.

As the potter was forming this clay, He was close to being done, but He spots something that He's not happy with.

When making a clay pot on the wheel the potter has to:

Knead the clay to make it **more pliable** and **remove the air pockets**, which if not removed, **will destroy the pot when it goes into the oven**

Then he puts it on a wheel to form it

One Hand applies pressure on the Inside

The Other Hand applies pressure on the Outside

So What's the Lesson?

God's got His hand on your outside—but He's also working on your inside

IT JUST TAKES TIME AND PRESSURE FOR THE POTTER TO CREATE HIS VESSEL

They say a piece of **carbon** with enough **time, pressure and heat** will be **transformed into a diamond.**

He 's Fixing Us on the Inside—So He can handle Us on the Outside

Remember Jonah who didn't want to go to Nineveh and deliver God's message 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a big fish began working on mental state as the fish carried his body for 3 days. God did a work on him, just like He would do with the Israelites.

Right Now:

Your Life May Be In Ruins

Your Hopes Dismantled

Your Dreams Destroyed

Your Prospects All But Perished

It takes time to make a worthwhile vessel—But God is Patient

******2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NASB)**

²⁰ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to **honor** and some to **dishonor**.

²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

On The Wheel:

Hopelessness Turns To Hope

Low Esteem Turns To Self Esteem

A Nobody Becomes Somebody

In God's hands, marred vessels can be remade, and they can become useful vessels.

Notice our Lord's desire:

******2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)**

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, **not wishing for any to perish** but for all to come to repentance.

THE PRIMARY LESSON TODAY IS:

God Can Remake Marred or Ruined Vessels

******Jeremiah 18:4**

⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it **again another vessel**, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

God Can:

Renew

Restore

Revive

And Rebuild Your Life

God Gives 2nd Chances

He Allows U-Turns

When You Are In The Hands Of God:

There Is No Problem God Can't Solve

No Sorrow He Can't Heal

No Tear He Can't Dry

And No Burden He Can't Lift

We Need To Remember—God Has A Purpose Behind Every Problem!

And A Plan Behind Every Pain!

You were fearfully and wonderfully made by God Listen to what David wrote:

******Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)**

¹⁴ I will praise You, for **I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works,** And *that* my soul knows very well.

The Question is:

HOW DOES GOD SHAPE AND MOLD US TO BE LIKE HIS SON JESUS CHRIST?

1. God Shapes and Molds Us Through Our Faith In Christ

******2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB)**

for we walk by faith, not by sight

******Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)**

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

2. God Shapes and Molds Us Through Life Experiences (both good and bad)

with the purpose to shape and mold us into the person that He wants us to be

for His glory

That is why the **Apostle Paul could say** and **God's children can say:**

******Romans 8:28 (NASB)**

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

It is a blessing to know that no matter what I go through—

no matter what storm I find myself in—I am still in the “Hands of God.”

I May Lose My Job

I Am Still In The Hands Of God

My Paycheck May Get Cut

I Am Still In The Hands Of God

My Friends May Forsake Me

I Am Still In The Hands Of God

I Might Be Sick

I Am Still In The Hands Of God

I might go through a flood

I Am Still in The Hands of God

**I May Be Too Old To Take
Care Of Myself**

I Am Still In The Hands Of God

I Hope You're A Christian Right Now And Know You're In The “Hands Of God.”

One day the wheel of life will stop for us all.

The Potter will either take the vessel off the wheel and put it in a place of honor, or He will discard it forever.

Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ? Jesus said often: he who has ears let him hear

Do you believe it? Hebrews 11:6 We cannot please Him without faith

Are you ready to turn from the sin in your life? (Repent)

Are you willing to confess that Jesus is the Son of God?

******1 John 4:15**

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

******Romans 6:3-4 (NASB)**

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

When you come up out of that watery grave, you are a new creature, all sin has been removed