**Jeremiah 18:1-23**

***“I Am The Potter...”***

Introduction:

1. Are you always fighting those things you can’t change or those things over which you have no control?
2. In Jeremiah 18 God takes Jeremiah to the pottery workshop. From there He wants to talk to Jeremiah and to you and me.

**I. THE POTTER’S PROJECT 18:1-10**

 ***A. God’s Perspective 1,2***

*Go down to the potter’s house…and I will cause you to hear ‘my words’.*

1. We must change positions in order to change perspectives.
2. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. We just don’t get it no matter how many times God tells you.
3. He wants to teach us in the pottery shop!

 ***B. God’s Picture 3,4***

*Behold, he wrought a work on the potter’s wheel…*

1. What Jeremiah saw happens all the time in a pottery shop.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YyMUeIkqMU>

1. So, the potter smashes, kneads and then skillfully forms the clay with his hands forming it into a different vessel altogether. He turns a pot into a bowel or a pitcher into a vase…whatever seemed best to him.
2. The potter’s wheel is a lesson in the absolute sovereignty of God!
3. Woodrow Knoll says, *He is a God of the second chance.* You’ve failed or blown it. God picks up the lump of clay. You have one thing in mind. You have natural abilities. Then God takes life’s messages and turns them into life’s ministries. Joni E. Toda speaks from a wheel chair.
4. God determines abilities or inabilities. He predetermines how you are wired up…the way you look…your intelligence.
5. God has something designed just for you. He will need you as you to fulfill His assignment.

 ***C. God’s Prerogative 5,6***

 God is God...He can do as He pleases!

1. God speaks through the clay. 5

\*God is speaking to you: to your failure, to your frailty, to your frustration.

\*When God speaks…listen!

 **2.** God reasons 6 “*Cannot I do with you as a potter? Behold, as the clay is in*

 *the Potter’s hand, so you are in mine.”*

 *\**God is God. He can do as He pleases and what pleases Him. He is the

 Creator. Human beings are not on equal terms with God.

 \*He doesn’t ask you or I permission to carry out His plan.

 \*Wet clay is malleable, pliable. Just the slightest touch or the thumb or

 finger changes the contour of the vessel.

 \*The potter has complete mastery over the clay.

 \*If God is the Potter, then He can make something out of the most unlikely

 blob of clay. This is also part of His sovereignty! We come into the world

 as an ugly piece of clay. Our lives are pitted with blemishes and impurities.

 We are neither useful or beautiful. As clay goes, we are not all that easy to

 work with.

 \*We need to be created all over again, which is what the Holy Spirit does in

 the life of the Sinner who trusts in Christ. He makes him or her into

 something useful or beautiful.

 \*If you know Christ, then you are a memorial to God’s patience and

 Longsuffering, His careful use of material and His power of making something

 out of failure.

 \*God often makes something out of us that we never had in mind. We have

 disappointments in love. There are diseases in our body. We have

 discouragements in our work. We have desperation in our families. For one

 reason or another, we are often unhappy with the way life is shaping up. Very

 likely if you were behind the potter’s wheel, you would make yourself

 differently.

 \***You are not the Potter. You are only clay. Trust the Potter and yield to**

 **His skillful hands. QUIT FIGHTING THE POTTER.**

 **\***Are you willing to trust the Potter? Do you believe that He knows best,

 designs best, shapes best and fashions best?

 \*If you have given your heart to God, you can trust Him to transform you into

 something useful and beautiful. **If you find that hard to believe, it is because**

 **He is not even close to being finished yet! He is taking the time to work on**

 **the parts that are lumpy or off center. TRUST HIM…He knows what is**

 **best!**

 **3.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WZ9DOnQAMw>

 ***D. God’s Principles 7-10***

This is a message for any nation or any person.

1. **His Rule:** *Nations to pluck up, pull down or destroy or v. 9 to build or plant*

\*The Potter plants and plucks up nations. He brings prosperity or disaster as He pleases.

\*Jeremiah was appointed a prophet over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow or build and to plant. v. 10

 **2. His Repentance** Notice what brings judgment: *turn from the evil v. 8*

 *\*I will repent…relent concerning the evil I planned to bring on it.*

 *\**We are a Gentile nation. We are a nation that was once blessed by God. One

 day it will be destroyed because of its wickedness!

 \*In the 1990s O.J. Brown observed: *It would take someone with a supernatural*

 *gift of prophecy to tell us the number of days or weeks or years that the American*

 *commonwealth can be expected to endure without…being overthrown. But it*

 *does not take a prophetic gift to see that…disaster on a national scale is*

 *inevitable.*

 *\**God rewarded America based largely on biblical principles. The USA is mere

 clay and God is the Potter. He will mold or mar as He pleases according to

 righteousness and repentance of this nation.

**II. THE POTTER’S PAIN 18:11-17**

Judah will not listen. Judgment is coming. He can do that: **He is the Potter!**

**III. THE POTTER’S PATIENCE 18:18-24**

*Let us devise plots against Jeremiah.*

1. *Jeremiah, God’s messenger is misunderstood...mistreated...maligned...*

God is still the Potter and Jeremiah is the clay.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3b651dgqCnY> Benjamin Watson: the

 Potter and the Clay

***“Are you resting in the hands of the Potter?***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEBOb-H1NbY>

Change My Heart, O God