



One of my favorite Scripture stories is the one of Jeremiah watching the potter at work. (Jeremiah 18: 1-6) God sent **Jeremiah** down to the **potter's house**. He went in and watched the potter at his work. The artist took a lump of clay in his hands, then placed it upon the wheel. Then as he turned the wheel and his skillful hands molded the vessel into shape.

In a moment, the vessel was finished and Jeremiah must have said, "What a beautiful vessel!" But the potter frowned and said, "No, there is a **flaw** in it." So, he **crushed** the vessel in his hands, puts the clay **back on the wheel** and made a vessel that **satisfied him**.

Even in **the Potter's hand**, things can go terribly **wrong**. The fault is **not** with the Potter but is a **problem with the clay**. There are times when with the best of care, the vessel still **gets out of shape**.

Isn't this the way our lives seem at times? We are going along well, then **something happens** in our lives and then for one reason or the other, we are thrown off balance and we become **marred** in the Potter's hand, we become **cracked pots**. Yet, because God knows everything about us and because His hand rests on our lives, He is **instantly** aware when things aren't as they should be. At that moment, He begins to take the necessary steps to get us back in **usable condition**.

Even though the clay is misshapen and deformed, it is **still** in His **hand**. The **Potter** takes the marred vessel, presses it back into a lump and **begins again**. This time, the vessel **may** turn out well, but it may be deformed once again. If so, as long as the clay is **moldable** and **pliable** in His hand, the Potter will **rework** it and reform it until he is able to produce a **vessel that satisfies Him**.

When the vessel is **marred**, the Potter does **not** throw the clay away and start fresh with a new piece. There is a reason for this. He has already **invested too much time** in salvaging the clay from the soil and in preparing it for use. He has a **vested interest** in what happens to the clay. Therefore, He can afford to be **patient** and to keep working in the clay until it begins to **resemble that image that He desires it to be**.

God is in control of our lives, and He makes of us what He wishes. Some are **sturdy** vessels that are used over and over again. Others are very **fine** and **delicate** like expensive China. They are used only on **special occasions** but are glorious to behold at any time. Whatever the usage, it is according to the will of the Potter and those types of choices are totally up to Him. The clay has no right to question the Potter's judgment in the matter of what kind of vessel He makes of it. The whole point here is that **God** decides what He wants you **to do** and **to be**. Your duty is to **submit** to His will for your life.

What kind of **vessel** did God make you? **Sturdy**? Or, **fine** and **delicate**?

The only duty that the **clay** has is to **yield** to the will of the **Potter**. If we want the **blessings** of the Lord and want to be vessels of **honor** unto Him, then let us be what He has **equipped** us to be. **We are to grow where we are planted and use our gifts for His glory**. If we will place ourselves in His hands and genuinely allow the Lord to work His will in us, then we will be **blessed** and will be vessels of **honor** unto the **glory** of the Lord.

Are you like "putty in the Master's hands"?