

"Can I not do to you as the Potter has done to the clay?"

Pastor Othniel James

Main Scriptures: Jeremiah 18: 1-6

Support Scriptures: 1 John 4: 16; Hebrews 14:15

Notes:

We know potters make different types of vessels but we can only imagine what is in the mind of the potter. So it is that we don't know what God has called us into this great kingdom for. We know generally that it is a kingdom that is eternal and we know we have passed from death. As the Clay is in the master's hand so are we in Gods' hand we noticed that the clay is yielded to the potter. It is a dead piece of material on a wheel. The clay has no desire of its own it's just a lump of clay, it is yielded to the hands of the potter. It cannot argue with the potter or make me a beautiful bowl or paint me red. Likewise, we are all in the hands of God and it doesn't matter how powerful we think we are no one falls outside of Gods sovereign power.

God is in control he never surrendered control to any other being his power is supreme none can argue with Him. He did not surrender any power to the devil. We look at the life of Job where the devil had to ask God's permission to touch Job. The devil couldn't touch a hair on the camels that belong to Job until he was given permission. God is all-powerful. Let look at the nature of the clay what's in the mind of the potter and the hands of the potter what we recognize is that this lump of clay has no will. In the text, Jeremiah witness the potter moulding a vessel and somewhere he crushed it and what looked like a vessel was a lump of clay and then he moulds it again. We recognize how difficult it would have been if this clay was on the wheel with a mind of its own, in other words, it is an unsundered life. There would be chaos and difficulty because the hands of the potter is not always beautiful he presses against it and cuts it. Let say this clay had the ability to choose and it was on the wheel with a mind of its own it would be impossible for the potter to do his desire. Jesus asks us to surrender our will. It allows us to understand how important it is for the Christian not to have a will of his own. How many know the purpose of God in our lives?

This lump of clay is powerless and here we have a principle that we have to live by. it is to acknowledge our weakness that we have no power to alter our shape and substance. In this body, no good thing dwells in it. What we should live by is that when we acknowledge our weakness is to surrender our will to the potter. That's the beauty of Christianity.

Note the clay, it is beautiful now and one could say leave it as is but this clay is surrendered to the potter and the potter will call the shots. Our lives must be abandoned to God without any question. He is sovereign and I am surrendered He is the one designing and sustaining me and I will not appeal against his will when I am in the potter's hand I remain there until he removes me from the wheel.

Sometimes in our Christian walk, there is a danger of being satisfied or feeling we have arrived and once we start to have those feelings what's happening to us is that old self-will is wrestling against the potter. It's at these times we will remove ourselves from the wheel because we believe that this is what he is making.

What I want us to understand is that when calls us he is calling us to do more than just get to heaven. The call of God is much more than heaven when he called us he has a unique purpose for each one. The vessel he wants us to be and the design he has in mind no one knows about it only God.

There is a governing principle is that the vessel can never be perfected if the hands of the potter are not consistently on it. It tells us that if God's hand is no on us it is a marred vessel. It will not look like what he intended it to look like. When he called Paul and the brethren were scared the Lord told him don't be

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afraid I have called this man Paul and I will show you how much he must suffer for my name. It tells us that every individual that God calls him has a purpose.

1 John 4: 16 -

As we witness in this video that so it is as it relates to the Lord that he has some tools to shape us into the purpose of our call. The beauty of it is that as individuals on this wheel in the hands of God we have found ourselves in the hands of Love. What it takes from us is the ability to trust him. When God selects from his cabinet the fiery touch it is not punishment it is love. Why? because the end result will be the most beautiful person I could ever become.

I was listening to a radio station and the preacher said "Gods will to create, something out of you and the beauty of His creation is much more beautiful than you would have ever intended on your most creative day" On your most creative day you can not create what God has designed for you. Perhaps if we look closely as we watch this gentleman use that sharp tool he uses a sponge to smooth out the marks the tool created. I wonder what we would look like if we allowed Gods hands on us. I wonder if I could fall in love with the hand of God in our life. A lot of our misery has to do with self-will that's quite alive. Dead men don't quarrel or fight... dead men don't tell any tales. When we look at this lump on the wheel we see a piece of clay that trust its master the potter.

If we allow God to finish and allow his hand to remain in our life we would see the beauty that God created for us.

Question:

How does the Lord smooth out the brokenness in our life after experiencing so much abuse and brokenness?

Love puts you on his wheel and it's the love of the potter that will allow his hands to mould and shape that clay. It doesn't matter how broken that clay is it is clay as long as it's clay he has the ability to shape that clay into a whole vessel. He can make something beautiful out of it.

I am challenged to trust God to fix the brokenness that happened to me before I met God and I question why would God allow this and It a challenge to let him into those areas and I question God where were you and I struggle with that?

Sometimes we go through some valleys and you may not have an answer and you have the Holy spirit that when you look back you have to see the positive from the negative now as you have the Holy ghost.

In coming to Christ he knows when we will come to understand his sovereignty and

The potter is not challenged by brokenness, he arrives on brokenness. We can trust God I noticed that at no point in this video did the potter have to consult with someone else. We can trust Him and when we present our brokenness to him he takes it and makes something beautiful out of it.

When we cant understand his hands we have to trust his heart. When we look at Job, Job could not understand the hand of God in his life but he had to trust his heart. We can look at Jesus who was marred more than anyone else but he looked at the glory that was to be while he was being touched on the cross. God will bring that clarity if we continue to trust Him.

Sometimes I find when I think of the reason why God allowed it we don't realize that our brothers and sisters are also broken and looking at my past and my pain and I can go alongside someone else while they are in their struggles and sometimes I think that path can help support someone else.

If we are going to have an impact on people we have to be vulnerable. There is the notion that we get saved and we forget everything about our past and we won't have the ability to identify with others.

Hebrew 14: 15

It is difficult but also true that God allows us to experience certain difficulties because his choice and purpose will make something out of the pain. I know we talk about dates when we were baptized and filled but it is very true we are chosen in Him before time ever existed. Our entire life, God didn't call us to abandon our experiences, our brokenness will mean something to this ministry.

Let us remember how important it is for us to remember that Gods hand is on us throughout the whole process.