

Jeremiah 18:1-12 • The Potter & the Vessel

1. The potter is **God**. (Is. 64:8)
 - a. The clay is formed into something useful by the Potter's **will**. (Rom. 9:20-24)
 - b. The clay is formed according to the Potter's **plan**. (Eph. 2:10; Philip. 1:6)
 - c. The clay doesn't see the **finished product**. (1 Co. 2:9)
 - d. It takes time to go from clay to a **worthwhile product**.
 - e. The Potter's hands are sometimes actually the hands of **other people** in our life.
2. The clay is **us**.
 - a. Believer's seek to be **vessels of honor** in God's house. (2 Ti. 2:19-21)
 - b. We are effective only to the degree we're **filled** with God's **power**. (2 Co. 4:7)
 - c. Each vessel has a specific **purpose** of God. (Acts 9:15)
 - d. Clay is dust mixed with water – believers are dust mixed with the **Holy Spirit**.
 - e. Clay is only **valuable** in the right hands for the right purpose.
 - f. The nature of clay is to **yield** – either to the Potter's hands or to another's.
3. The wheel is **life**.
 - a. The clay must trust the Potter for its **entire time** on the wheel. (Rom. 8:28)
 - b. The most important characteristic of the wheel is that it's **on center – balanced**. (Mat. 6:33)
4. The clay Jeremiah was sent to observe was **spoiled**.
 - a. It was following its **own plan** instead of the Potter's.
 - b. Remolding the clay is a picture of God's **grace** for a **second chance**.
5. The Potter's tool not mentioned in this passage is the **furnace**. It would represent **trials**. (Job 23:10; Is. 48:10; 1 Pe. 4:12-13)
6. The "point of no return" is when we **cease yielding** to the Potter's hands and become **hardened and unshapable**. Jeremiah 19 is an image of this: a pot broken and thrown with the rest of the refuse into hell.
7. The most important thing is to remain **available**, **clean**, and **empty** for His will and ways. (1 Ti. 2:21)