

## Sun night – 11-21-21 – Jeremiah Object Lesson – pottery

### Jeremiah 18:1-12

- :1-6 – object lesson
  - :2-3 – instructed to go to the potter’s house working on a pottery wheel
  - :4 – if clay is ruined, potter would start over and remold it
  - :6 – God is the potter, you are the clay, we are in God’s hand
  - Observations
    - :3 – “work” – God wants to work in your life
      - If work needs to be done, then there is room for improvement
    - :4 – “he made it” – God is the One who needs to shape your life
      - You can’t become who God made you to be with self-help books
    - :4 – “as seemed good to the potter”
      - God will shape you to become what He intended you to be
      - You need to submit to His will, not your own
  - What is the process of God working and shaping our life?
    - Need water to keep clay moldable
      - Without water, clay gets dry and unable to glide clay through hands
      - God’s Word is symbolized by water.
        - Eph 5:26 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”
      - Continually being in the Word of God in your life will keep your heart soft and moldable for God
    - Need to keep clay centered in the middle of the wheel to evenly distribute clay
      - We need to be in the center of God’s will in order to be balanced and to be developed into what God would have us to be
      - Pray and seek to follow Christ in every area of your life
      - Just as the clay is centered on the wheel, be a Christ-centered individual
    - Need to keep clay stuck on the wheel to finish molding
      - If the process is rushed, the excessive pressure will disconnect the clay from the wheel
        - The process will need to start all over
      - We need to stick to the process God is taking us through to shape us
        - We need to be patient and not get ahead of God
          - This is hard in an immediate gratification society

- :7-10 – If you change your ways, God will change His plans for you
  - This can be good or bad depending on how you change
    - :7-8 – if evil people repent of evil to listen to God’s voice
      - God will repent of the judgment to come
    - :9-10 – if an obedient people repent and do evil
      - God will repent of the good that would benefit them
  - God always gives a warning of judgment before He punishes sin
    - The window of grace is our opportunity to repent of our ways before judgment comes
  - If you’re living in sin and judgment hasn’t come yet
    - You are living in that window of grace
      - God will eventually judge your sin
      - Do not continue in the sin to bring God to the point of judgment
    - Take this window of grace to repent and turn to God
      - God will forgive when we confess our sins to Him
        - Do you need to be saved?
  - If you’re living for the Lord
    - Be careful not to get comfortable and complacent with God’s blessings
      - It is easy to become self-reliant and forget God when the times are good
    - If you forget God and turn to sinful ways
      - God will repent of the good blessings and bring judgment
  - God is the potter, we are the clay and we are in God’s hands.
- :11 – Israel was in sin and God was warning them to turn from evil to do good
- :12 – Israel’s response - “There is no hope”
  - Why do people live in sin and choose not to repent to turn to God?
    - People continue in sin because they do not see any hope in their sin or hope in anything else outside of their sin
      - They know sin is bad
      - They know sin is harmful
      - They know sin hurts
    - They do not believe God’s way is better
      - They do not think there is hope of a better way with God
      - Pr 10:28 – “The hope of the righteous shall be gladness...”
      - Gal 5:5 – “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”
      - Pr 14:32 – “...The righteous have hope in his death”

- 1 Thes 4:13 – “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
  - Lost people without Christ have no hope
  - Saved people with Christ have nothing but hope!
    - There is hope of eternal life thru Christ in heaven
    - There is hope of abundant life thru Christ on earth
      - Do you believe that?
        - God’s ways are better than any other way
        - God’s ways are always best
        - There is hope of forgiveness in Christ
        - There is hope of fulfillment in Christ
        - There is hope of belonging in Christ

#### Jeremiah 19:1-5, 10-11, 15

- :1-5 – the deep sin of the people
  - :1 – get a piece of pottery
    - Take of the ancients – old and dried out
  - :3 – God will bring evil upon the Israelites
  - :4 – because they have forsaken God
  - :5 – they were living in sin
    - Didn’t follow God’s commands
    - Didn’t listen to God’s words
    - Did things that God wasn’t even thinking about
- :10-11 – illustration of breaking the pottery
  - :10 – brake the bottle in sight of all the people
  - :11 – “Even so will I break this people...that cannot be made whole again
- :15 – reason why God was going to break this people
  - “...because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words.”
    - Their heart was hardened like an old dried out piece of pottery
      - They refused to listen to God in their sin and God broke them without remedy
        - Pr 6:14-15 – “Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.”

- When God's season of grace ends, God's judgment is final.
  - Lost and die in sin, hell is an everlasting torment
  - Living in sin, God's judgments could have consequences with no remedies
- 2 examples with pottery
  - 18:4 – pottery ruined but made into another vessel
    - Soft hearted, repent, reshape
  - 19:11 – pottery broken and cannot be made whole again
    - Hard hearted, unwilling to repent, judgment of a broken life
- Invitation:
  - Lessons from the pottery
    - Living in sin/forsaking God/refusing to let God work in your life
      - have a soft heart and repent, God will forgive/reshape your life
      - have a hard heart – judgment is coming with no remedy – REPENT
        - swallow your pride, soften your heart to God, listen to His voice
    - Living for God
      - Keep heart tender towards God and keep in His Word and depending on Him
    - Lost in need of a Savior
      - Come forward, trust Christ as your Savior before it's too late