

Called by God

Part 3

“A Vessel”

2 Corinthians 4

Therefore, **since through God’s mercy we have this ministry**, we do not lose heart. **2** Rather, **we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly** we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. **6** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay (*earthen vessels*) to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

In **Part 1 - The Call Comes from God**

In **Part 2 - Called to be Separate**

Today in our Series, I want to talk about being a Vessel

Have you ever felt like you really don’t have much to offer God...

Can I tell you that in our flesh none of us do...

How about:

Your not good enough

Smart enough
Gifted enough
Well spoken enough

Remember when God called Moses? What did Moses say?

We all feel all of those things and the truth is, it's not about us, It's all about Jesus...

My Calling as Christians is not to give people me, my calling is to give people Jesus...

Our Calling as Christians is to be a Jar of Clay (an Earthen Vessel) that holds God's Presence, God's Word and pour out to others what Jesus has poured in to you...

1. A Clean Vessel

Vs. 1,2

Therefore, **since through God's mercy we have this ministry**, we do not lose heart. **2** Rather, **we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.** On the contrary, **by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.**

The Apostle Paul begins by says:

- **1st - since through God's mercy we have this ministry...**
- **2nd - we have renounced secret and shameful ways...**
- **3rd - we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.**

Matthew 23

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26** Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Jesus isn't just talking about a cup or dish, he is talking about us and how God works in reference to people...

He does a work on the inside...
This affects the outside directly...

1 Peter 2:12

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

I heard this quote the other day: It's powerful and convicting...
*“If the world hates you because of Jesus that's fine...
If they hate Jesus because of you that's a problem”*

Evangelist Robbie Mitchell once said this

*“Who you are in public is not who you really are,
Who you are in private is who you really are?”*

*The battle is not won in public first
The battle is won in private first
and that will bring a public victory*

1 Timothy 4:16

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Lord will not pour his Holy Spirit into a Vessel that is not prepared. The Holy Spirit will be poured into a Vessel that is Clean and made ready...

Consider the day of Pentecost...

John 15:3

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Peter was restored to Jesus before he experienced the Promise of the Father on the Day of Pentecost...

2. A Willing Vessel

Corrie ten Boom

A Dutch watchmaker born in 1892 and died in 1983, survived the horrors of the Holocaust and afterwards traveled the world as God's agent of good news and reconciliation.

She talked about her need to pray often: "God, make me willing to be willing." She told God that He would have to make her willing to forgive the monstrous guards at the Ravensbrück concentration camp. And God did! She told God that He would have to make her willing to tell God's good news of forgiveness and love. And God did!

Watchman Nee, was a Chinese church leader and Christian teacher who worked in China during the 20th century.

In 1922, he initiated church meetings that may be considered the beginning of the local church in China. Following the [Communist Revolution](#), Nee was persecuted and imprisoned for his faith and spent the last twenty years of his life in prison.

This is from the Collection of Nee's writings:

One frequent problem among us as God's children is that we are naturally unwilling to do God's will. Biases, cravings, and self-will unintentionally appear. It seems that the price of doing God's will is too

great, that it contradicts our own will too much, and that it is too much of a hardship for the flesh and too uncomfortable for our own feeling.

This does not mean that we do not want to know God's will; we do want to know God's will. But, at the same time, we have our own cravings. Many times we think that if we are willing, we will be finished and our life will be over.

The way of deliverance for us is to repeatedly acknowledge God's right over us. We should meditate on the Lord's love, on how He died for us, how He suffered, saved, comforted, forbore, and cared for us. We should obey Him because He has a right over us, and we should be moved to follow Him because of His love. We should meditate on these things until our heart melts and our tears come down. The Lord's love will surely touch us. At the same time, we should ask ourselves, "Is it true that I am not willing to do God's will and that I have my own inclinations?"

Am I willing to allow God to work on me until I become willing and until I have no more inclinations?" This means that although we are not willing to do God's will, we are willing to allow God to make us willing to do His will.

That's good question:

First off are we a willing?

If not, are we willing to be made willing?

Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

3. A Yielded Vessel

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay (*earthen vessels*) to show that **this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**

When a person is fully Yielded to Jesus, it's not so much about what they are doing that matters to them. It's who they are doing it for, that matters.

A Yielded Vessel is someone who practices obedience and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit...

The World is sensitive to so many things...

Mainly people...

The way people think...

The way people live...

The things people want...

But what about the Lord?

But who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit?

Who desires to please God?

A Yielded Vessel cares more about pleasing God than pleasing man...

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare,

But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

I will never forget walking in to a Chapel Service one day as a Bible College Student, it must have been 1998. Charley Perkins was leading worship for the Student body that day and he was leading from the piano. He began singing a song I had never heard. The words gripped me. They went like this...

When the music fades

All is stripped away

And I simply come

Longing just to bring

Something that's of worth

That will bless your heart

I'll bring you more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required

You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about you
It's all about you, Jesus

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about you
It's all about you, Jesus

Later I got to hear Matt Redman tell the story behind this song he wrote.

Matt Redman was the Worship leader at a church in England...
He said the church was vibrant and full of young people...
There were lots of talented musicians and singers...
There was a big sound system and big lights...

And when all this was going so good the Pastor unexpectedly asked Matt not to lead any worship...
He had the entire worship team sit out for weeks and challenged the church to worship God without any instruments or any singers...

He asked the church to bring God something of worth, true worship from the heart, and that's what they did for several Sundays.

It was out of that time of authentic worship that the song “The heart of worship was written”

Closing Song:

As I was preparing for this message those words kept ringing in my ear as I asked the Lord what does it mean to be a vessel?

I kept hearing these words
And it's all about you
It's all about you, Jesus

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay (*earthen vessels*) to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

The carnal mind would say, it's all about me
But the Holy Spirit is reminding us, It's all about you, Jesus...