



The Potter's Hands

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Introduction:

"The clay is not attractive in itself, but when the hands of the Potter touch it, and the thoughts of the Potter are brought to bear upon it, and the plan of the Potter is worked out in it and through it, then there is a real transformation."

Ecclesiastes 2:24 *There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.*

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

I. The Potter's providence was demonstrated through His hands. (V.3)

A. Our circumstance is His work in our lives.

Jeremiah 18:3 *Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.*

Ecclesiastes 9:1 *For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.*

B. Our conformity is the wheel of His will in our lives.

Jeremiah 18:3 . . . on the wheels.

*“Clay on the Potter’s wheel is like Browning’s, ‘Dance of Plastic Circumstance.’
This wheel is the wheel of circumstance. That’s what it is!”*

“I do not believe that life’s big decisions are made in a church sanctuary. I believe they are made out in the work-a-day world – in the office, in the school, in the workshop, at the crossroads of life—there is where the Potter is working with the clay. This is the place He is working with you my friend.”

- J. Vernon McGee

II. The Potter’s patience was demonstrated through His hands. (V.4)

A. Our disobedience mars us in the Potter’s hands.

Jeremiah 18:4 *And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter:*

“Disobedience robs you and your life of the creative genius of God coming to bear upon your life.”

B. His determination forms us through the perseverance of His hands.

Jeremiah 18:4 . . . so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The patient ministry of His hands:

- ♦ The ministry of moistening of His hands: **Ephesians 5:26** *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*
- ♦ The ministry of molding of His hands: **1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:*
- ♦ The ministry of mastering of His hands: **Philippians 3:21** *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
- ♦ The ministry of mercy of His hands: **Psalms 103:8** *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

“The most intimate part of the Potter and Clay analogy is the use of the Potter’s hands. A more intimate, tender, and compassionate illustration could not be given. He trusted to nothing else but His personal touch.”

- Elmer Wesley Praetorius

III. The Potter's pining was demonstrated through His hands. (V.6)

A. The Potter grieves over our stubbornness.

Jeremiah 18:5 *Then the word of the LORD CAME to me, saying, (V.6) O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD . Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.*

How ridiculous to blame the Potter:

Romans 9:20 *Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? (V.21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (V.22) What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: (V.23) And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.*

“We have feelings, intellect, and willpower, and we can resist Him if we choose. But it is God who determines whether a man will be a Moses or a Pharaoh. Neither Moses, nor Pharaoh, nor anyone else, could choose his parents, his genetic structure, or his time and place of birth.”

- Warren Wiersbe

B. The Potter grieves over our suffering.

Jeremiah 18:6 . . . *Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.*

“The profound point about the Potter's work is that He makes no duplicates!”

