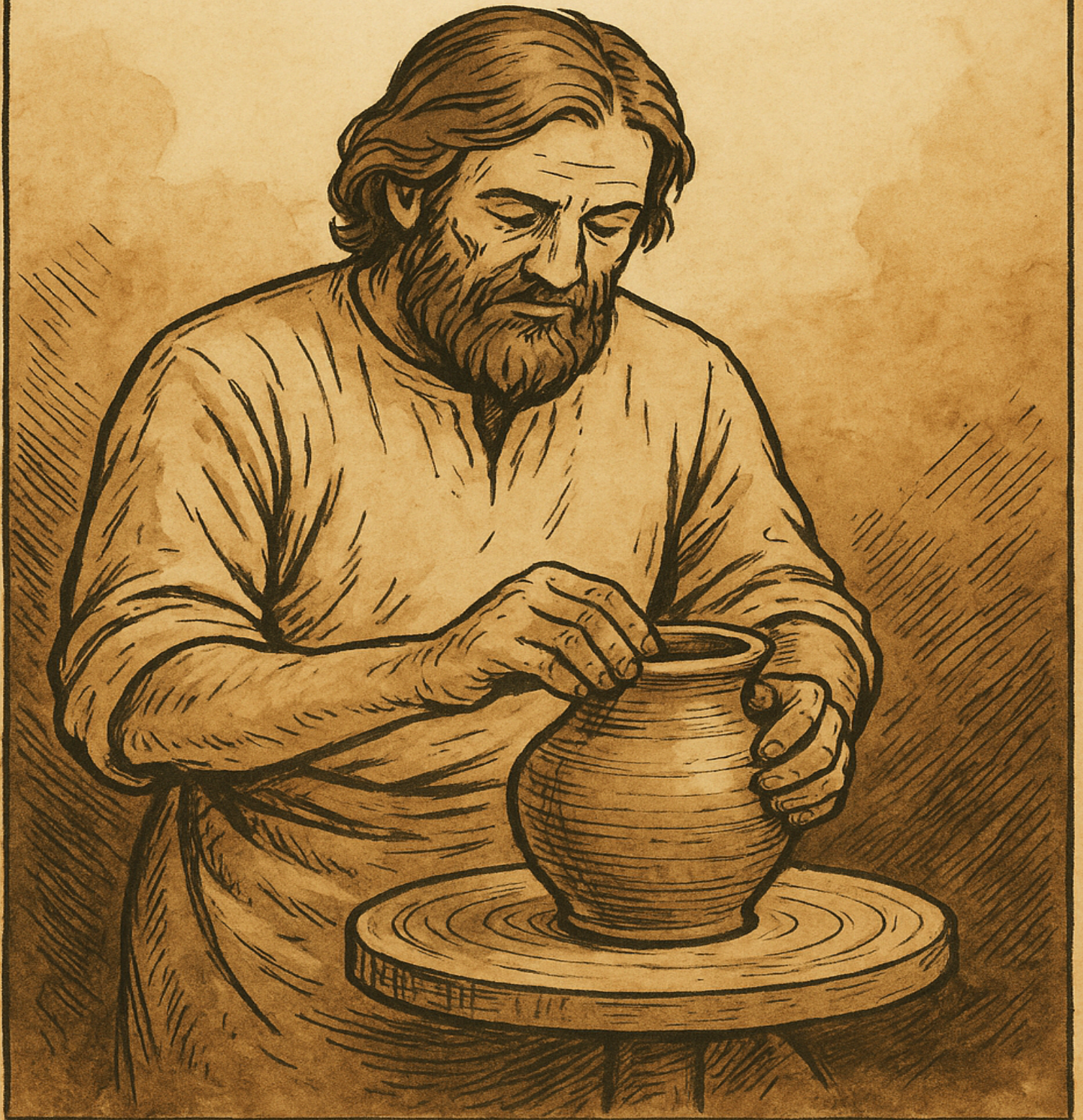


# THE POTTER AND THE CLAY





## Introduction: God the Potter

Jeremiah 18:1–6 (ESV) — \**“The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done?’ declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”\**

God shows Jeremiah a living picture: He is the Potter, and His people are the clay. Just as a potter has the right to reshape clay, God has the right to shape, reshape, and form our lives for His purposes.

### Reflection Questions:

- Where in your life do you sense God reshaping you right now?
- How does knowing God is the Potter bring you peace in uncertain times?

## Truth 1: God Shapes the Clay

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) — \**“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”\**

We are God’s workmanship—His masterpiece. Though the shaping may feel painful or disappointing, God is not finished with us yet. Every trial is part of His design to prepare us for the good works He planned long ago.

### Reflection Questions:

- What does it mean to you personally that you are God’s masterpiece?
- How does this truth change the way you see your disappointments?

## Truth 2: When Expectations Disappoint

Jeremiah 18:11–12 (ESV) — \**“Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’ But they say, ‘That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’”\**

The people rejected God's call to change because it didn't fit their expectations. We too face disappointment when life does not unfold as we hoped—whether in marriage, work, or health. But even when our plans fail, God's purposes stand firm.

Proverbs 19:21 (ESV) — \**“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”\**

### Reflection Questions:

- What expectations in your life have not turned out the way you thought?
- How does Proverbs 19:21 encourage you when things don't go as planned?

### Truth 3: When Prayers Disappoint

Jeremiah 18:18–20 (ESV) — \**“Then they said, ‘Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah... Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words.’ Hear me, O Lord, and listen to the voice of my adversaries. Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.”\**

Jeremiah prayed for his enemies, but his prayer seemed ignored. We often face the same struggle when prayers aren't answered the way we hope. Even Jesus prayed this in Gethsemane:

Matthew 26:39 (ESV) — \**“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’”\**

Romans 8:28 (ESV) — \**“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”\**

Sometimes God's answer is yes, sometimes no, and sometimes not yet. But His purpose is always for our good.

### Reflection Questions:

- When have you felt disappointed by an unanswered prayer?
- How does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane guide you in moments of disappointment?

## Communion Reflection

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV) — \**“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, he also took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”\**

At the cross, Jesus bore the greatest disappointment and suffering—taking on God’s wrath for our sins. When we take communion, we remember His body broken and His blood shed for us. It is our moment to surrender our expectations, disappointments, and unanswered prayers to God, praying as Jesus did: ‘Not my will, but Yours be done.’

