



### Week #3: The Potter and the Clay

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup> “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” <sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup> But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to me. <sup>6</sup> He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup> If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup> and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. <sup>9</sup> And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, <sup>10</sup> and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.*

*<sup>11</sup> “Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’ <sup>12</sup> But they will reply, ‘It’s no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.’”*

Jeremiah 18:1-12 (NIV)

#### Lessons from Jeremiah 18:

- God \_\_\_\_\_ us because he \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into the shape we call human, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.*

Genesis 2:7 (VOICE)

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- **We tend to \_\_\_\_\_ him because of our \_\_\_\_\_.**

*How terrible it will be for anyone who argues with their Maker!*

*They are like a broken piece of pottery lying on the ground.*

*Does clay say to a potter,*

*"What are you making?"*

*Does a pot say,*

*"The potter doesn't have any skill"?*

Isaiah 45:9 (NIRV)

- **God always has more \_\_\_\_\_ than we have \_\_\_\_\_.**

*But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ.*

Ephesians 2:4-5 (GNT)

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

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

- **We are \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.**

*Remember, each of us will stand personally before the Judgment Seat of God. For it is written, "As I live," says the Lord, "every knee shall bow to me and every tongue confess to God." Yes, each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

Romans 14:10-12 (TLB)

*This is what the Lord says: "Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests <sup>2</sup> and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim the words I tell you, <sup>3</sup> and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, you kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place...*

*"Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching, <sup>11</sup> and say to them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter's jar is smashed and cannot be repaired.'" ...*

Jeremiah 19:1-4, 10-11 (NIV)

## **Discussion Questions**

1. How have you experienced God's shaping influence in your life, and in what ways do you see His love manifesting through these changes?
2. Reflect on a time when you resisted God's guidance due to pride. What were the consequences, and how did you eventually come to recognize His wisdom?
3. In what ways have you witnessed God's mercy in your life, even when faced with the 'mess' of personal shortcomings or failures? How can this recognition of His mercy influence your spiritual growth?
4. Consider how you are currently responding to God's call to spiritual formation. What steps can you take to align your actions more closely with His will, acknowledging your responsibility in this relationship?

## **Recommended Resources**

- *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*, by Max Lucado
- *Extravagant Grace: God's Glory Displayed in Our Weakness*, by Barbara Duguid
- *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*, by Mark Vroegop

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