

D. Loneliness Test

We must learn to know the joy in being alone as well as with others.

Will you allow Him to become your one desire?

Psalms 73:25 CEV - "In heaven I have only you, and on earth you are all I want."

Psalms 73:25 AMP - "Whom have I in heaven but you? And I have no delight or desire on earth besides You."

E. Self-Will Test

God alone is the one who takes us off the shelf. We must break away from our independence and our self-sufficiency, and come in agreement with God.

2 Corinthians 3:5 CEV - "We don't have the right to claim that we have done anything on our own. God gives us what it takes to do all that we do."

9. SIGNING THE CLAY

Isaiah 49:15-16a NIV - "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands..."

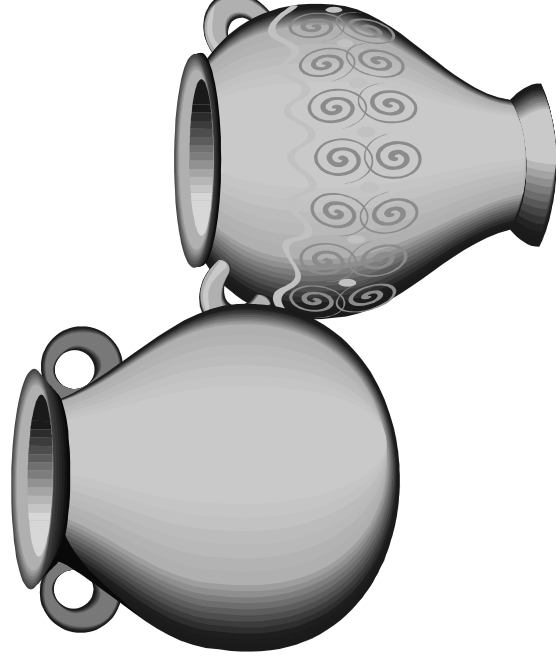
THE POTTER'S WHEEL

Part 3 – The Process: Drying the Clay

Sunday February 15, 2004

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Jeremiah 18:1-6 NIV – (1) This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord. (2) Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message. (3) So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. (4) 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. (5) Then the word of the Lord came to me: (6) O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? Declares the Lord. Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.



REVIEW

1. DIGGING OUT THE CLAY

2. SOAKING THE CLAY IN WATER

3. WEDGING AND SLAMMING THE CLAY.

- A. Determine you are going through and that you will make it, no matter what happens.
- B. Fix your eyes on Jesus.
- C. Submit to the skillful hands of the Potter.

4. CENTERING THE CLAY

- A. Allow the Lord to draw you to himself.
- B. Recognize His love in disciplining you.
- C. Listen carefully to what areas in your life must be brought into divine alignment.

5. FORMING THE CLAY

- A. Resist running ahead of the Lord.
- B. Be still.
- C. Resist self-exaltation and selfish ambition.

6. SEARCHING THE CLAY

- A. Welcome the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.
- B. Get to the root of your motives and don't allow for self-justification.
- C. Learn immediate repentance.

7. RE-MOLDING THE CLAY

THE PROCESS CONTINUED

8. DRYING THE CLAY

The potter places the pot on a SHELF in the DARK, to dry and harden and LEAVES the pot.

SHELF – TESTS

A. Time/Patience Test

Psalm 31:14-15a - AMP “But I trusted in, relied on, and was confident in You, O Lord; I said, You are my God. (15) My times are in your hands;”

God would rather take 30 years of preparation with 3 years of impacting ministry than 3 years of preparation and 30 years of mediocrity with no lasting impact, and perhaps even damaging ministry.

B. Hiddenness/Humility Test

The question: Will we serve Him with joy and passion even if no one else knows our name, if we never receive recognition, even if others overlook us?

1 Peter 5:6 AMP – Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation) under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.

C. Frustration/Self-Pity Test

Revelation 3:7b NIV “These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens, no one can shut, and what He shuts, no one can open.”