

- When we forgive we see more clearly. We don't ignore the hurts but we see beyond them. We rediscover the humanity of the one who hurt us.

iii. Forgiveness Involves Wishing the Other Person Well.

- You hope for good things for them. You can hear someone say a kind word about them, without inwardly screaming for rebuttal time.

D. SERVANT TEST

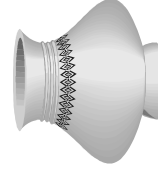
Matthew 20:26-28 AMP – (26) Not so shall it be among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, (27) And whoever desires to be first among you must be your slave – (28) Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (the price paid to set them free).

1 Peter 4:10 CEV - Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

- Joyce Meyer: “The servant test reveals whether we really want to help people or just be in the limelight.”
- When we begin to serve, we are actually taking ownership – we are saying, I belong and I'm part of the solution. We are building community.

CONCLUSION

- The pot becomes even more beautiful because of the second fire. The more we die to ourselves the more beautiful we become, because the more like Christ we become.



THE POTTER'S WHEEL

Part 5 – The Second Fire

Sunday May 9, 2004 - Debby Baril

REVIEW

THE FIRST FIRE

- God never fires one vessel at a time!
- He will place in the fire the church, a family, a group and sets them on fire to expose everyone's hearts.

A. Wilderness Test

- You must die to your own ambitions, desires and ways
- Jesus was tested with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

B. Discouragement Test

- Must learn to encourage ourselves in the Lord
- Important to focus and discipline ourselves-determine not to give up
- Discard the rumors of the enemy and believe the report of the Lord – Watch your words!

C. Misunderstanding Test

- Must learn to stand when no one else stands with you
- Must know the voice of God and obey

D. Security Test

- *While we are looking for someone to DO God is looking for someone to BE.*
- Joyce Meyer ****When we place our confidence and trust in people that should be in God – God is obligated to show forth their weaknesses.****

E. The Trust Test

- Learn to trust him in the times of silence, darkness, confusion and questions.
- Be still and know that He is God!

THE GLAZING OF THE CLAY

- The potter will put a glaze on the pot, to bring out its beauty, beginning from the inside, and working His way out.
- The glaze on us is reflecting the beauty and character of Christ.
- The glaze is not what waterproofs the pot – it's the fire and temperature the pot endures

THE SECOND FIRE

A. REJECTION TEST

- Rejection will come from those close to you; family, friends, etc.
- Rejection for doing what's right – going after God, becoming the vessel he intends you to be.
- People will reject you and your pursuit of God so that they can justify their own complacency.
- You may be rejected for the call on your life or the visions and dreams you have.
- When rejected for God's work they do not reject you but God.

Luke 10:16 NIV "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

B. BETRAYAL TEST

- The people you think you can count on suddenly turn on you.
- Joseph was betrayed by his brothers.
Moses was betrayed by his sister and brother.
David was betrayed by his own son.
- Jesus betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver.
- We must recognize the real betrayer and allow God to comfort us and bring us through...making us stronger and more like Christ.

Philippians 3:10 NIV "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

C. FORGIVENESS TEST

Matthew 18:21-22 CEV "Peter came up to the Lord and asked, How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough? (22) Jesus answered, Not just seven times, but seventy times seven."

Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them
by John Ortberg (Chapter 8)

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- Forgiving is not excusing.**
 - Forgiveness is needed when there is no good rationale to explain away why someone did what they did.
- Forgiving is not Forgetting**
 - All that forgetting requires is a really bad memory.
- Forgiving is not Reconciling**
 - Reconciliation requires the rebuilding of trust, and that means good faith on the part of both parties.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

- Forgiveness Gives up the Quest to get Even.**
 - When I forgive you, I give up the right to hurt you back.
- Forgiveness Involves a New Way of Seeing and Feeling.**