

Vessels unto Honor

**Like clay in
the hand of
the potter,
so are you
in my hand**



Rick Parker 2004



Jeremiah 18:1-3 (NIV)

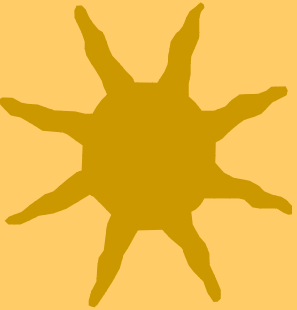


- ★ This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
- ★ "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message."
- ★ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel.





God formed us from Clay



★ **Genesis 2:7**

And the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.



Fragile Vessels of Clay



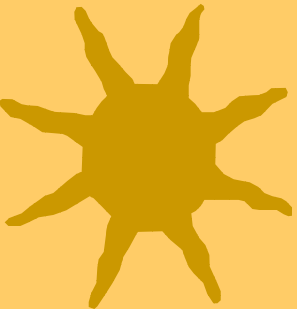
★ **Job 10:9**

Remember that you molded me like clay.



★ **Job 33:6**

I am just like you before God;
I too have been taken from clay.



★ **2 Corinthians 4:7**

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



Out of the Pit!



- ★ **Established on a Firm Foundation**
- ★ **Psalms 40:2**
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.
- ★ **Isaiah 26:4**
Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.





Out of the Mud



- ★ Clay is dug from the pit, impurities are removed and the clay is wedged forcing the air out and creating a smooth, solid mass of clay ready to begin a good work.





Out of Despair

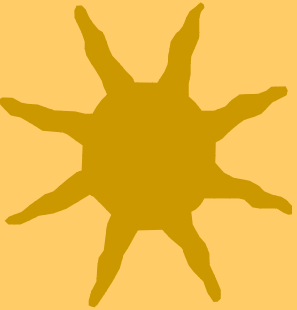


- ★ The clay is placed firmly on the wheel and then it must be centered just as we must be centered on God before we can begin a good work.





Centered on God (Focused)



★ **Psalms 46:10**

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."





Respond to God's Call!



- ★ The clay stretches and moves responding to the touch of the potter's hand.
- ★ So we should stretch, move and respond to **God's Call**.





Open Your Heart



- ★ The word of God pierces the heart just as the potter pierces the clay.
- ★ Open your heart to the Lord.



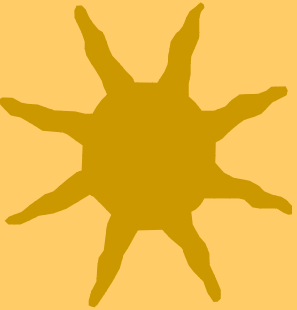








Control of the Tongue



★ The potter must control the lip of the vessel just as we must control our lips.



★ A lip on a pot out of control will eventually cause the vessel to fall.



★ An out of control tongue will eventually be our fall.





Control of the Lip



★ **James 1:26**

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.





What is Holding You Back?



- ★ The potter cuts away excess weight from the vessel to maintain balance.
- ★ We must cut away the baggage: Injury, Injustice, Pain
- ★ Allowing the potter to remove our burdens.





What is Holding You Back?



★ **Matthew 11:28-30**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.



Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

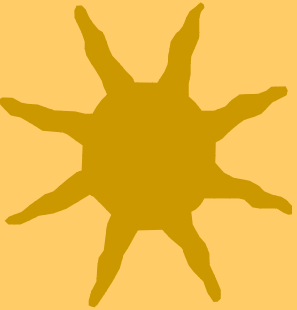


For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."





Get Outside



- ★ Just as the vessel must be separated from the wheel in order to be of use,
- ★ We must get outside our fortresses in order to be of use for the Lord.





Get Outside



★ **Matthew 28:19-20**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."





The Fire Strengthens Us



- ★ The vessel must go through the drying and firing process in order to be strengthened.
- ★ Just as we must go through the problems of this world in order for us to withstand the pressures of life.





The Fire Strengthens Us



★ **1 Peter 1:7**

These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire

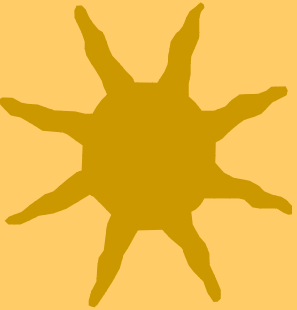
may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.







Second Firing



★ **Ephesians 6:11**

- ★ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
- ★ Glaze seals the vessel keeping out moisture that would break down the vessel.





Light unto the World



- ★ Glaze is a glass coating on the vessel that reflects light
- ★ We Christians that put on the full armor of God will reflect God's light to those around us.





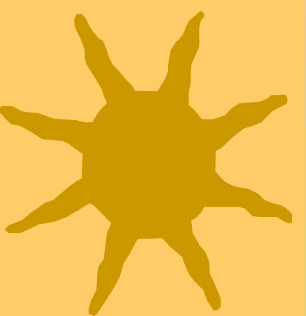
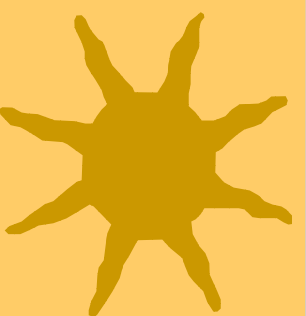
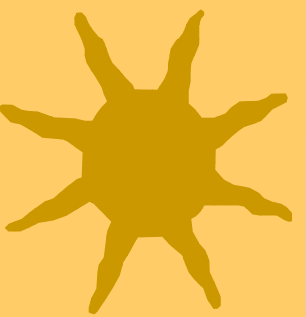
Let Your Light Shine



★ **Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

★ Shine God's Hope to Others





Most Honorable Vessel?

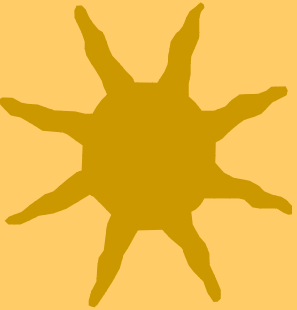


- ★ Not the best shaped, shiniest or most colorful but,





Most Honorable Vessel?



- ★ The Vessel that gave freely from the heart, “Living Water”, was truly the most honorable vessel





Quench Your Thirst



- ★ Share your hope with others that they may drink of God's love.
- ★ And return to the well of worship and prayer to refill your cup.





The Potter Never Spoke



- ★ The potter that Jeremiah visited never spoke.
- ★ Just as we may never hear God's voice,
- ★ Yet the transformation from clay to vessel is obvious.





What is Your Call?



★ **Romans 9:21**

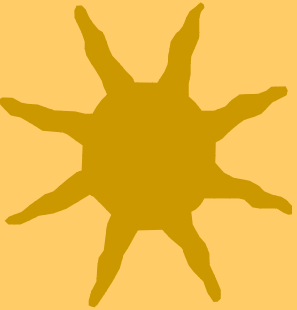
Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

★ There are many Calls to Service





We are God's Work of Art



★ **Isaiah 64:8**

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
We are all the work of your hand.





Greed, Lust & Pride



★ **2 Timothy 2:21**

If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.



Like Clay



★ **Jeremiah 18:4**

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.





A New Creation!



- ★ Sometimes in God's service we get marred, but God doesn't throw us away or just patch us.
- ★ God remolds and remakes us into an even better vessel by returning us to our foundation.
- ★ The Rock - **JESUS CHRIST**





Like Clay



★ **Jeremiah 18:5-6** Then the word of the LORD came to me:

“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the LORD.

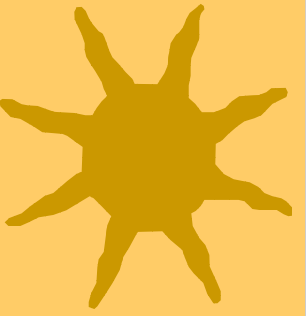
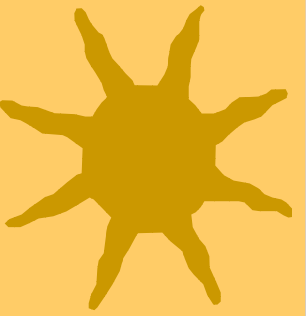
“Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”



We are the Work



of your Hand



Have Thine Own Way

LORD!