



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Make Me Over!

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-6

The prophecy of Jeremiah might be considered the great book on backsliding and the dangers of apostasy. To make clear to Judah the consequences of sin and apostasy; to reveal to them their own future in the plan of God for man; and to emphasize the fact that the destiny of every man is determined by his conformity or lack of conformity to God and His plan.

The prophet Jeremiah was commanded by the Lord to proclaim divine messages to the people of Judah. God sent him to the potter's house to observe the potter working with the clay. **The potter represents God, and the clay symbolizes His people.** Imagine a skilled potter at their wheel, shaping and molding a lump of clay with purpose and precision, symbolizing human imperfection and the need for renewal.

God has the power and ability to reshape us, to make us into something beautiful and purposeful, regardless of our current state according to His will. God is the ultimate authority and can bring about change and transformation in our lives. This scene serves as a powerful lesson for Jeremiah and the people of Judah about God's sovereignty and His ability to bring about renewal and restoration in their lives.

Spiritual formation can only transpire as God works in and on our lives. Do you ever feel like your life is in need of a makeover? Do you find yourself longing for change or renewal? Just like the clay in the potter's hands, we are in the hands of a loving and capable God who can transform us into something new. **We can trust in His plans for us, knowing that He can take our brokenness and imperfections and create something wonderful out of them.** God molds and shapes us according to His will as we allow Him to work in us, so that we may fulfill the purpose and destiny He has planned for us.

The purpose of divine discipline is that it allows us to be open and honest about our own flaws. Through the process of shaping and molding, God is teaching us important lessons such as patience, trust, and surrender. He is showing us that He is in control and knows what is best for us. Like clay in the potter's hand, we are being molded and transformed into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. **Are you ready to release control and embrace His transformative touch in your life?**

The message was spoken to Judah, assuring them that it was not yet too late to be made over again into a wonderful nation, but they would have to become as clay in Jehovah's hands. Judah did not heed the prophet's powerful invitation to repentance and renewal of relationship. In fact, the immediate response to Jeremiah's plea is recorded in Jeremiah 18:12: "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart." Their destruction could have been avoided if Judah had simply obeyed the Lord.

Jeremiah's visit to the potter's house yields some practical advice for allowing God to do His work in your life. First, never attempt to hide your flaws or shortcomings. Always be honest and transparent with God. Trying to hide your flaws only delays the transformation process and prevents you from becoming what God intends you to be. Second, allow God to take your life in a completely different direction than what you might have planned for yourself. Just because God decides to make you "another vessel" does not mean He has made you an inferior vessel. God's plans are perfect even when they do not align with your own. Finally, never allow the pain and discomfort in your life to drive you away from God; rather, use it to draw closer to the Lord. There is nothing like a sudden job loss or a backslidden child or an unexpected illness to make us pray more fervently and frequently than ever before. And rather than being ashamed that it took such an extreme circumstance to get you to a new level of relationship with God, recognize that may be part of the reason God allowed this circumstance to come into your life. **Let us open our hearts to His guiding hand, allowing Him to mold us into vessels of honor, reflecting His glory to the world.** Amen.

My question to you can God do with you as the potter did with the clay?