**SERMON OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Life Made Over |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Jeremiah 18:3-8 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2380 |
|  |  |
| We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.  In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers’ messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.  Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means —electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other— without the prior permission of the publisher.  Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc. | |

1. INTRODUCTION
   1. How would you like to make your life over?
   2. God gave a vision to Jeremiah.
      1. Jeremiah 18:3-6
   3. The making of pottery is one of the oldest arts known to men.
      1. The potter takes the clay.
         1. He chops it, crushes it, molds it, and squeezes it until it is soft and pliable.
      2. The potter has a wheel that is driven by a treadle which is driven with the potter’s foot.
      3. The potter puts the lump of clay on the wheel, and he begins to caress the clay with his fingers.
      4. A vessel of beauty or a vessel of service emerges out of the ugly clay.
   4. There are three major ingredients that are used in the making of pottery:
      1. The potter.
      2. The clay.
      3. The wheel.
   5. In today’s message, we will look at the Potter and the clay and how we can have a life made over.
2. the potential of a life that responds (jeremiah 18:6)
   1. God is the potter.
      1. He is the Master workman.
      2. God is at work in our lives.
   2. We are His workmanship.
      1. God is working on us.
      2. Ephesians 2:10
      3. God wants to make out of us a vessel, someone whom He can use.
   3. We are the clay.
      1. There is nothing wonderful about a lump of clay.
         1. It is ugly, it is weak, and it is totally helpless.
         2. Clay has three “un’s” about it:
            1. It is unclean.
            2. It is unlovely.
            3. It is unable.
      2. We are made of the dust of the Earth.
      3. We are unclean.
      4. We are unlovely.
      5. We are unable.
   4. The wheel represents the circumstances of life.
      1. This is what we call “providence.”
      2. It is the workman who turns the wheel.
         1. Not only does God caress the clay, but He is also the one who arranges the circumstances in our lives.
         2. He orders every turn of the wheel.
      3. Many of us think that there are incidences in our lives that are meaningless.
         1. But not a blade of grass moves without God’s permission.
            1. And over it all is Romans 8:28.
         2. It may not make sense to us.
            1. But it does not have to make sense to us as long as it makes sense to God.
   5. Isaiah 55:8-9
      1. God thinks differently than we think.
         1. God sees the big picture.
         2. We see things from our perspective.
      2. God works on a different thought level and a different technique level.
         1. He does things differently than we do.
   6. Sometimes we like to tell God how to do things.
      1. Numbers 21:5-9
         1. In the wilderness when the fiery serpents were biting the children of Israel, they might have asked God to take away the serpents.
         2. God didn’t take away the serpents.
         3. Instead, God told Moses to put a brazen serpent upon a pole.
            1. Everyone who looked at it would be healed.
         4. God did not remove the serpents.
            1. He brought a solution in the midst of the pollution.
      2. Sometimes we wonder why God doesn’t kill the devil.
         1. Instead, God put His Son on the cross.
   7. God’s ways and our ways are not always the same.
      1. But God is the potter, we are the clay, and the wheel of life is run by the foot that bears the nail prints.
   8. Every turn of the wheel is ordered by God or allowed by God.
      1. If we cannot understand the difficulty that we are in, then remember that one day we will understand that every turn of the wheel has been a part of God’s plan.
      2. If He does not rule, then God overrules.
         1. He will turn every Calvary to an Easter.
         2. He will turn every midnight to a sunrise.
         3. He will turn every tear to a pearl and string those to make a diadem for you.
   9. Therefore, what should we do?
      1. Acknowledge that God is the potter, and we are the clay.
         1. Ask Him to mold you and make you after His will.
         2. Romans 6:13
      2. We are to yield.
         1. The clay is to yield to the hand of the potter.
      3. Are you yielded?
         1. Can God form you and shape you?
         2. Can God make out of you what He wants to make out of you?
            1. That is the potential of a life that responds.
   10. Most of us dare not dream what we could be if we would allow God to have His way in our lives.
   11. There are three persons sitting in our chair right now:
       1. There is the person you are now.
       2. There is the person you might be for evil if you turn from God.
       3. There is the person you can be if you let God have His own way and mold you and make you after His will.
3. the problem of a life that resists (jeremiah 18:4)
   1. The vessel was on the wheel.
      1. The wheel went round and round as the potter caressed the vessel, putting his artistic hands upon it.
      2. But something happened, and the vessel was marred, ruined, and messed up.
      3. Was the problem in the hand of the potter?
         1. Did God (the potter) mess up?
      4. The problem was not in the hands of the potter.
         1. The problem was in the clay.
   2. There might be a hidden impurity in the clay.
      1. There may be some hidden impurity in your life that is marring what God wants to do.
   3. The clay may not be broken enough.
      1. The clay may be too stiff.
         1. It does not yield to the hand of the potter.
   4. Is there any unclean, impure thing that stands in the way of what God wants to do in your life?
   5. Are you truly yielded to the Lord?
      1. If not, then the vessel will be marred.
   6. The problem is not with the potter.
      1. The problem is with the clay.
4. the promise of a life that repents (jeremiah 18:4, 6-8)
   1. Just because we may have failed does not mean that God is finished with us.
   2. Jeremiah 18:4
      1. The vessel that was marred was remade.
   3. You can have a brand-new start.
      1. There is hope for you.
      2. Our God is the God of a second chance.
   4. Jeremiah 18:6-8
      1. In this passage, God said that if you will repent of your sin, then He will repent of the judgment.
      2. There is a promise to every one of us today.
         1. Your life may be marred and messed up by some hidden sin or some unyieldedness, but God does not hold grudges.
         2. He is the God of a second chance.
      3. If God says to a nation that He will judge that nation, and if that nation repents, then He will repent of the evil that He would bring upon that nation.
         1. We must disabuse ourselves of the idea that it is too late for America.
            1. America can come back to God.
            2. The same is true for other nations.
            3. It is true for churches.

Churches and nations are made up of individuals.

* + - 1. 2 Chronicles 7:14
  1. This condition holds true for a life that is still pliable and that gives God all of the pieces.
     1. If your life is broken, then give Him all the pieces.
        1. But do it while it is still pliable.
     2. He can make another vessel out of you.

1. the peril of a life that rebels (Jeremiah 19:1, 10-15)
   1. If you are not going to yield to God, then the clay is going to be hardened.
      1. It may be a deformed vessel, but it will be hardened.
   2. Jeremiah 19:1
      1. An “earthen bottle” was a vessel.
      2. “The ancients of the people” and “the ancients of the priests” were the leaders and the wise people.
   3. Jeremiah 19:10-11
   4. Jeremiah 19:15
   5. This is the peril of a life that rebels against God:
      1. You can be broken and yield yourself to the Lord.
         1. Repent and ask Him to mold you and give you a new start.
      2. Or, you can live your life the way that you want to and choose not to yield.
         1. That is your privilege.
         2. But if you do this, then you will be hardened in that position.
            1. Once the clay is hardened, the potter cannot remold it.
   6. The Bible is full of people to whom God gave a second chance, but always they were pliable.
   7. Sometimes people want to know if they have committed the unpardonable sin.
      1. If you are concerned about this, then you haven’t committed this sin.
         1. Because God is still dealing with you.
      2. A person who has committed the unpardonable sin gets so hardened in sin that God cannot speak and cannot mold them anymore.
      3. What God is talking about is a vessel that is hardened in deformity, impurity, and stubbornness.
         1. It has turned to hardness.
         2. It is broken beyond hope.
   8. In front of every man, woman, boy, and girl is a deadline.
      1. Proverbs 29:1
      2. When you cross the deadline and choose not to yield to the potter, then the clay gets hard, and it is too late.
         1. When that happens, your spiritual sensibilities are dulled.
            1. Romans 11:8
            2. There are people who have eyes, but they cannot see.
            3. They have ears that cannot hear.
            4. They cannot see spiritual things.
            5. They have become hardened in their sin.
         2. Like a vessel that has hardened, the clay is fixed and cannot be molded.
   9. While the clay is soft and pliable, come to Him.
      1. He will receive you.
      2. If you want to be saved, then you can be saved.
   10. There will come a time when it will be impossible for you to come to the Lord.
       1. Romans 1:21
          1. Light refused increases darkness.
       2. Romans 1:24
          1. He is talking about sexual immorality and perversion in this passage.
       3. Romans 1:26
       4. Romans 1:28
          1. God gave them up, God gave them up, and God gave them over.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. God is the potter; we are the clay.
      1. We are unclean, unable, and unlovely.
         1. But we are something in the potter’s hand.
      2. God wants to make something beautiful out of you.
         1. This is the potential of a life that responds.
   2. There is the problem of a life that resists.
      1. If there is an unyieldedness or a hidden impurity, then you will mess it up.
   3. There is the promise of a life that repents.
      1. Maybe you have messed up.
      2. It is not too late.
      3. God made it again another vessel.
   4. But there is the peril of a life that rebels.
      1. This is when we don’t want God, and we want things our way.
      2. Proverbs 29:1
         1. Once that hardened vessel is broken, it is over.
   5. The wisest thing you could ever do is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
      1. Let Him have His way with you.
   6. Even if you have received the Lord Jesus as your Savior and have messed up, He is the God of a second chance.
      1. He will give you a fresh start.
   7. Whatever you do, please do not harden your heart.
      1. The clay sets, the vessel is deformed, fit to be destroyed, and never repaired.
   8. Acts 16:31
   9. He can take you, a lump of clay, and make you into a vessel of beauty and service.
   10. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   11. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. John 3:16