

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: A Life Made Over

SERMON REFERENCE: Jeremiah 18:3-8

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) How would you like to make your life over?
- b) God gave a vision to Jeremiah.
 - i) Jeremiah 18:3-6
- c) The making of pottery is one of the oldest arts known to men.
 - i) The potter takes the clay.
 - (1) He chops it, crushes it, molds it, and squeezes it until it is soft and pliable.
 - ii) The potter has a wheel that is driven by a treadle which is driven with the potter's foot.
 - iii) The potter puts the lump of clay on the wheel, and he begins to caress the clay with his fingers.
 - iv) A vessel of beauty or a vessel of service emerges out of the ugly clay.
- d) There are three major ingredients that are used in the making of pottery:
 - i) The potter.
 - ii) The clay.
 - iii) The wheel.
- e) 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)

- a) God is the potter.
 - i) He is the Master workman.
 - ii) God is at work in our lives.
- b) We are His workmanship.
 - i) God is working on us.
 - ii) Ephesians 2:10
 - iii) God wants to make out of us a vessel, someone whom He can use.
- c) We are the clay.
 - i) 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:
 - (a) It is unclean.
 - (b) It is unlovely.
 - (c) It is unable.
 - ii) We are made of the dust of the Earth.
 - iii) We are unclean.
 - iv) We are unlovely.
 - v) We are unable.
- d) The wheel represents the circumstances of life.
 - i) This is what we call "providence."
 - ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
 - (a) And over it all is Romans 8:28.
 - (2) It may not make sense to us.
 - (a) But it does not have to make sense to us as long as it makes sense to God.
- e) Isaiah 55:8-9
 - i) God thinks differently than we think.
 - (1) God sees the big picture.
 - (2) We see things from our perspective.
 - ii) God works on a different thought level and a different technique level.
 - (1) He does things differently than we do.
- f) Sometimes we like to tell God how to do things.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Everyone who looked at it would be healed.
 - (4) God did not remove the serpents.
 - (a) He brought a solution in the midst of the pollution.
 - ii) Sometimes we wonder why God doesn't kill the devil.
 - (1) Instead, God put His Son on the cross.
- g) God's ways and our ways are not always the same.
 - i) But God is the potter, we are the clay, and the wheel of life is run by the foot that bears the nail prints.
- h) Every turn of the wheel is ordered by God or allowed by God.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
- i) Therefore, what should we do?
 - i) 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
 - ii) We are to yield.
 - (1) The clay is to yield to the hand of the potter.
 - iii) 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?
 - (a) That is the potential of a life that responds.
 - j) Most of us dare not dream what we could be if we would allow God to have His way in our lives.
 - k) There are three persons sitting in our chair right now:
 - i) There is the person you are now.
 - ii) There is the person you might be for evil if you turn from God.
 - iii) 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)
- a) The vessel was on the wheel.
 - i) The wheel went round and round as the potter caressed the vessel, putting his artistic hands upon it.
 - ii) But something happened, and the vessel was marred, ruined, and messed up.
 - iii) Was the problem in the hand of the potter?
 - (1) Did God (the potter) mess up?
 - iv) The problem was not in the hands of the potter.
 - (1) The problem was in the clay.
 - b) There might be a hidden impurity in the clay.
 - i) There may be some hidden impurity in your life that is marring what God wants to do.
 - c) The clay may not be broken enough.
 - i) The clay may be too stiff.
 - (1) It does not yield to the hand of the potter.
 - d) Is there any unclean, impure thing that stands in the way of what God wants to do in your life?
 - e) Are you truly yielded to the Lord?
 - i) If not, then the vessel will be marred.
 - f) The problem is not with the potter.
 - i) The problem is with the clay.
- 4) THE PROMISE OF A LIFE THAT REPENTS (JEREMIAH 18:4, 6-8)
- a) Just because we may have failed does not mean that God is finished with us.
 - b) Jeremiah 18:4
 - i) The vessel that was marred was remade.
 - c) You can have a brand-new start.
 - i) There is hope for you.
 - ii) Our God is the God of a second chance.
 - d) Jeremiah 18:6-8
 - i) In this passage, God said that if you will repent of your sin, then He will repent of the judgment.

- ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) America can come back to God.
 - (b) The same is true for other nations.
 - (c) It is true for churches.
 - (i) Churches and nations are made up of individuals.
 - (2) 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - e) This condition holds true for a life that is still pliable and that gives God all of the pieces.
 - i) If your life is broken, then give Him all the pieces.
 - (1) But do it while it is still pliable.
 - ii) He can make another vessel out of you.
- 5) THE PERIL OF A LIFE THAT REBELS (JEREMIAH 19:1, 10-15)
- a) If you are not going to yield to God, then the clay is going to be hardened.
 - i) It may be a deformed vessel, but it will be hardened.
 - b) Jeremiah 19:1
 - i) An “earthen bottle” was a vessel.
 - ii) “The ancients of the people” and “the ancients of the priests” were the leaders and the wise people.
 - c) Jeremiah 19:10-11
 - d) Jeremiah 19:15
 - e) This is the peril of a life that rebels against God:
 - i) You can be broken and yield yourself to the Lord.
 - (1) Repent and ask Him to mold you and give you a new start.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Once the clay is hardened, the potter cannot remold it.
 - f) The Bible is full of people to whom God gave a second chance, but always they were pliable.
 - g) Sometimes people want to know if they have committed the unpardonable sin.
 - i) If you are concerned about this, then you haven’t committed this sin.
 - (1) Because God is still dealing with you.
 - ii) A person who has committed the unpardonable sin gets so hardened in sin that God cannot speak and cannot mold them anymore.

- iii) 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.
 - h) In front of every man, woman, boy, and girl is a deadline.
 - i) Proverbs 29:1
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Romans 11:8
 - (b) There are people who have eyes, but they cannot see.
 - (c) They have ears that cannot hear.
 - (d) They cannot see spiritual things.
 - (e) They have become hardened in their sin.
 - (2) Like a vessel that has hardened, the clay is fixed and cannot be molded.
 - i) While the clay is soft and pliable, come to Him.
 - i) He will receive you.
 - ii) If you want to be saved, then you can be saved.
 - j) There will come a time when it will be impossible for you to come to the Lord.
 - i) Romans 1:21
 - (1) Light refused increases darkness.
 - ii) Romans 1:24
 - (1) He is talking about sexual immorality and perversion in this passage.
 - iii) Romans 1:26
 - iv) Romans 1:28
 - (1) God gave them up, God gave them up, and God gave them over.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) God is the potter; we are the clay.
 - i) We are unclean, unable, and unlovely.
 - (1) But we are something in the potter's hand.
 - ii) God wants to make something beautiful out of you.
 - (1) This is the potential of a life that responds.
 - b) There is the problem of a life that resists.
 - i) If there is an unyieldedness or a hidden impurity, then you will mess it up.
 - c) There is the promise of a life that repents.
 - i) Maybe you have messed up.
 - ii) It is not too late.
 - iii) God made it again another vessel.
 - d) But there is the peril of a life that rebels.
 - i) This is when we don't want God, and we want things our way.
 - ii) Proverbs 29:1

- (1) Once that hardened vessel is broken, it is over.
- e) The wisest thing you could ever do is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
 - i) Let Him have His way with you.
- f) Even if you have received the Lord Jesus as your Savior and have messed up, He is the God of a second chance.
 - i) He will give you a fresh start.
- g) Whatever you do, please do not harden your heart.
 - i) The clay sets, the vessel is deformed, fit to be destroyed, and never repaired.
- h) Acts 16:31
- i) He can take you, a lump of clay, and make you into a vessel of beauty and service.
- j) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- k) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) John 3:16