

## **11-02-2011 POTTER**

Every time I conjure up the image of a POTTER, I think of the scene in the movie “Ghost” where Patrick Swayze helps Demi Moore mold a vase. It falls apart as they release it in a loving embrace. I’m Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

We are fortunate to have the loving embrace of God. If we allow Him to shape & mold us as the POTTER, the end product will be perfect. If we let go of his embrace, like the movie, we will collapse.

We must allow God to be the POTTER, to shape us, to mold us, to finish us. We must be clay in His hands. In Isaiah 29:13-20, the Lord addresses Jerusalem, admonishing the city for talking the talk but not walking the walk.

Verse 16: “You turn things upside down, as if the POTTER were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘He did not make me.’ Can the pot say of the POTTER, ‘He knows nothing?’” Leaning on their own understanding rather than God’s wisdom plagued Jerusalem. This is still prevalent today. The clay thinks it has the answers, doesn’t need the POTTER. Big mistake!

Isaiah 64:8-9 says, “O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, you are the POTTER; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.” This prayer pleads with God, the POTTER to do a saving work.

Jeremiah 18:3-7 adds this: “So I went down to the POTTER’S house, & I saw him working at the wheel. 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. Then 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.’”

God sent Jeremiah to a POTTER. Jeremiah watched the POTTER at his wheel. The soft clay became misshapen, but the POTTER shaped it back into a good vessel. This is what we can do. If we stray off track, not seeking the POTTER’S hand, we must repent & ask God to reshape our crooked appearance & actions.

Lamentations 4:2 says, “how the precious sons of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots of clay, the work of a POTTER’S hands!” We must submit ourselves to become works of the POTTER’S hands!

The POTTER knows what He wants the finished product to look like. God is the POTTER. We are the work of His hand, not ours. The POTTER decorates each piece He designs & gives it its shape, its beauty. It must be glazed for protection.

The POTTER'S final process in molding clay is the firing process, to pass it through the fire to harden & finish it. To reach the POTTER, we must first pass through the fires of hell & earth, turning from sin, leaving selfish desires behind, resisting temptation. Are you willing to pass through that fire, to give it up, to trust in the Lord?

Clay requires the right mixture of earth & water. Spiritual man requires a proper mixture of the right ingredients—Scripture, environment, worship & prayer. If we allow Him to, the POTTER will finish His work in us.

There are two great songs on this topic. Darlene Zschech's "The POTTER'S Hand is a great one: "Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Savior, I know for sure, all of my days are held in your hands, crafted into your perfect plan. Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the POTTER'S hand. Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me, I give my life to the POTTER'S hand."

The other is Adelaide Pollard's "Have Thine Own Way, Lord: "Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the POTTER, I am the clay. Mold me & make me, after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded & still."

As God says in Psalm 46:10, "be still & know that I am God." Wait on His perfect timing, to allow Him to shape us in His perfect image. The final word comes from a prayer of Oswald Chambers: "Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. You are the POTTER, I am the clay. Mold & make me, this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like you." That takes care of the "Ghost" image. I'll stick with the Holy Ghost, in partnership with Jesus & the Father as the POTTER!

For a text copy, e-mail me @ [kentrahan@aol.com](mailto:kentrahan@aol.com) & ask for POTTER. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I'm Ken Trahan. God bless you!