

# The Potter and the Clay

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Jeremiah 18-19.
- B. America is increasingly a nation that is being thrown into hell because of its godlessness.
- C. Jeremiah demonstrates the judgment of God.
- D. Jeremiah is shown the depravity of man but also the hope that is in God. (I Chronicles 7:14)

## II. The picture of the potter and the clay.

- A. People are the clay.
- B. The wheel represents the revolving circumstances of life.
- C. The potter is God who has the right to shape the clay as He desires. (Romans 9)
  - 1. Jeremiah learned of God's sovereignty through this picture.
  - 2. God does not like to judge—He “sighs” when he must bring pressure to shape the clay.

## III. The people's response to Jeremiah's prophesy drives Jeremiah back to God in prayer. Even a prophet of God has his times of weakness and fear.

## IV. God is sovereign over His people.

- A. Man makes plans, but God makes other plans.
- B. The great lesson is that God sometimes has to break a person down in order to change him into a vessel of honor.

### **Application questions:**

1. When has God had to break you down in order to teach you a lesson? What did you learn?

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2. Does God show His love when He brings pressure to shape a person? Explain.

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3. When have you experienced a group of people responding negatively to needed criticism? How can we gain strength in delivering God's message even when people may not want to hear it? Explain.

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