

## Broken!

"(v.1) This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: (v.2) 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.' (v.3) So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. (v.4) 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.

(v.5) Then the word of the Lord came to me: (v.6) '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. (v.7) If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, (v.8) and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. (v.9) And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, (v.10) and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

(v.11) Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.' (v.12) But they will reply, 'It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; each of us will follow the stubbornness of his evil heart.'"

### **Jeremiah 18:1-12**

New International Version

- Have you ever known what it is to be really ***frustrated***?
  - To be really up against it?
  - to have tried to do the very best that you can and it is not enough?
  - to want to do something more and yet not know what that something more is?
  - to want to win, perhaps not for yourself, but for another, or for God, but to win and to not know how to win?
  
- Jeremiah did!
  - Here is a young man who had been forsaken by his family,
  - he had been ridiculed and repudiated by his church though faithful to God's Word,
  - and he had been rejected by the country he loved.

Jeremiah was ***broken!***

The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in the midst of his frustration sending him to the Potter's house. Jeremiah stayed all day watching the Potter at work.  
At the end of the day he went home with new hope having understood three things.

**#1—God is always at work!**

"(v.6) '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.'"

**#2—The clay did not have to yield to the fingers of the potter!**

"(v.4a) But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands;"

**#3—Instead, the potter would take it and knead it into some new existence!**

"(v.4b) so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him,."

In the light of God's grace, frustration gives way to grace.

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved  
a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see."

Do You Need A Bail Out? #2  
2-8-09; RJB.

## Embracing Good in Hard Times

4 Blessed Ways to Get By:

#1—Set a budget

#2—Shop smart

#3—Improve your credit score

#4—Be energy conscious