

The Potters Wheel – 2

Jeremiah 18:1-4

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. NKJV

2 Corinthians 4:7

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show **that this all-surpassing power is from God** and not from us. NIV

- It is Him working in me – Truth – Freedom
- Not me working on me or me working for Him
- My identity is in Him – The Pot is only known because of the one who made it

When we are not submitted to the work of the Holy Spirit (potter) in our lives we live a religious life – based on our own merits and our own foundation

When we live this way we give place to the carnal nature

When we bear fruit of the flesh – we become judgmental, proud and establish our own righteousness which is built on lies and falsehood

Trying to fashion ourselves into a vessel of our choosing causes us to live religious, self righteous lives – When we do that we bear religious fruit – God hates religion

The Fruit of Religion – Living by the (our) Law

Proverbs 6:16-19 NLT

16 There are six things the LORD hates — no, seven things he detests:

- Haughty eyes (Proud) – Religious – Judgmental

- A lying tongue

- Hands that kill the innocent – Hate

- A heart that plots evil – Rebellion

- Feet that race to do wrong – Rebellion

- A false witness who pours out lies

- A person who sows discord among brothers

* Quite often these go hand in hand

A Lying Tongue – Believing a lie is where it all starts

Ephesians 4:25

25 So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other. NLT

- Lying is a problem – if its not the truth it's a lie

- Lying has become the norm in everyday interaction with others

- Average person lies 12 times a day

- We lie to control a situation or hide the truth

- When we try to control it's a sure sign we don't trust the Lord

Lying to ourselves destroys our confidence

Lying to others destroys our credibility

Lying to God destroys our courage

Many times we want to take a little truth that we agree with and reject what we don't agree with – This doesn't work

We need to...

Work at learning the truth

Value the truth

Embrace the truth – In our life

Work at speaking the truth

John 8:32 – “the truth shall make you free.”

Psalm 51:6 NKJV

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom

- Am I trusting God’s truth to prevail
- Truth brings freedom
- Lying keeps us in bondage
- A lie is founded in fear

The lie: I can do this on my own

Reheboam rejected the council of his father Solomon’s elders and listened to his young friends instead

The elders told him to “*serve the people and speak good words to them*”

1 Kings 12:10 Reheboam’s friends say...

10 thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! NKJV

- When we know better than everyone else we are breeding rebellion

1 Kings 12:19

19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. NKJV

2 Timothy 3:14

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them. NKJV

Never leave God out of life's equation

Proverbs 1:32-33

32 For the turning away of the simple will slay them,
And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

33 But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,
And will be secure, without fear of evil." NKJV

- God wants to help, so don't ignore Him
- Stop trusting your own ways
- Many times we're afraid of the truth
- The pain of truth and change will pass
- Not changing will continue to bring pain and regret
- Turn and receive the healing you need

Proverbs 1:23-24 Speaking of God's wisdom

23 Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, NKJV

- God's word and ways are wisdom
- Am I being simple minded?
- Do I mock or ignore wisdom?
- Am I living a lie?
- Do I think I know better than everyone else?
- God is speaking; am I listening?
- Fear of the Lord is the beginning of... - Prov. 9:10

When we do things our own way we may have a measure of success but we will set up false gods and idols and eventually not succeed

Amaziah reigned at 25 years old

2 Chronicles 25:2

2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart. NKJV

- He won victories
- He established his kingdom
- He strengthened himself in leading
- His heart turned away to foreign gods
- He ignored the prophet of God

2 Chronicles 25:16

16 Then the prophet ceased, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice." NKJV

- Do I just do what looks right or does God have my heart?

The Lie: I must have everyone else's approval

Luke 6:26

26 What sorrows await you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets. NLT

- This is a no-win philosophy
- If you receive approval you had to become someone else to get it
- If you don't receive approval you live with rejection
- This view of life breeds a misconception of others

When we live to please or be recognized by others
We are in a constant need to have people...

- Accept us
- Validate us
- Affirm us
- Like us

The truth is we've believed a lie that...

- No one would like who I really am
- I could never be good enough
- Everyone is more popular or more accepted than I am
- Good things happen to everyone else

Galatians 1:10

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. NKJV

Lessons we can learn

Follow the model of Jesus

John 5:39-41

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive honor from men. NKJV

- Popular opinion must not sway you
- The unseen crowd must not motivate you – My perception
- Live life on a higher level

Don't put your emotional well-being in the hands of others
The truth is some people will not like you no matter what
you do

Choose God's approval over human approval

Saul and the Amalekites

1 Samuel 15:13

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him,
"Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the
commandment of the LORD." NKJV

- When we listen to the voices of others we fall into pride
- We may think we are being obedient
– but that's not the truth (Deception)
- We fulfill our religious duty

1 Samuel 15:24-25 NKJV

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have
transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your
words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

- The fear of man brings a snare – Proverbs 29:25

John 7:18

18 Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise
for themselves, but those who seek to honor the one who
sent them are good and genuine. NLT

- Seek to honor self and be filled with confusion and rejection
- Seek to honor God and He will honor you – Grace
- Make God your favorite topic – not you

Luke 6:26

26 There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests-- look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular. MSG

- People are fickle – God is faithful
- People's love is performance based
- God's love is unconditional
- Believe what God says about you

1 Corinthians 4:3 MSG

3 It matters very little to me what you think of me, even less where I rank in popular opinion. I don't even rank myself. Comparisons in these matters are pointless. I'm not aware of anything that would disqualify me from being a good guide for you, but that doesn't mean much.

The Master makes that judgment.

- Know who you are in Christ
- Allow God to be the source of validation
 - **Ephesians 1:6** He made us accepted in the beloved
- Remain in God's presence at all times

Psalms 91:1-2

91:1 HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].

2 I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! AMP