

## The Potters Wheel – 3

### 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

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

It all starts with a lie – believing it – speaking it

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

Last Week – The lie: I can do this on my own  
Reheboam – Amaziah

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

When we do things our own way we may have a measure of success but we will set up false gods and idols and those will become what we trust “*the work of our hands*” we will not experience the success God has planned for us

Is He forming my life or am I forming my life?

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

The Lord said – Destroy Amalek and all they have

### 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 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, rejection, self preservation or gratification
- Seek to honor God and He will honor you – Grace
- When we live by Grace we extend it to others
- 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

Don't think just because you are not trying to please the masses you haven't fallen into this. We can surround ourselves with a click that we try to win the approval of. Everyone else becomes wrong or the enemy.

## 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

The lie: I'm right and nothing else matters

This view destroys marriages, careers and relationships  
Competitive tendencies must be brought to the cross  
It is alright to let others win

Choose your battles wisely  
Every battle is a trade-off  
Ask yourself: Is this one worth winning?

Choose to lose doing what's right rather than win doing  
what's wrong

In order to win in the eyes of God sometimes we must lose  
in the eyes of others

### 2 Chronicles 20:17

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you." NKJV

- Don't fight battles where winning doesn't matter
- Lay down your ego
- Give up your image of success
- Let go of the "My Way" mentality
- Some fights are won when you don't show up

Identify what is worth fighting for

Fight **for** people, not for things

### Nehemiah 4:14 NLT

14 Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your **friends**, your **families**, and your **homes**!"

Fight the Lord's battles – He's in those

### Psalm 144:1-2

1 Bless the LORD, who is my rock. He gives me strength for war and skill for battle. 2 He is my loving ally and my fortress, my tower of safety, my deliverer. He stands before me as a shield, and I take refuge in him. He subdues the nations under me. NLT

- The lord is your strength
- He gives you the strength to win
- That strength comes from time with Him
- He is our shield
- He subdues the enemy
- All promotion comes from Him

### 2 Timothy 1:12

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. NKJV

- **1 Timothy 1:12** – Counted me faithful

David was anointed king but chased (persecuted) by Saul  
God raises up an army of the oppressed around him  
David becomes King of Judah and later King of Israel  
Saul is later wounded in battle then falls on his sword  
All the while David trusts the Lord in the matter of Saul

David comes upon Saul

1 Samuel 26:9-10

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" 10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. NKJV

- Saul has been relentlessly pursuing David
- David has been anointed king
- God is raising up David's army
- God is diminishing Saul's kingdom
- David trusts the Lord to fight His battles

2 Timothy 2:24-3:1 NKJV

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

- Our position is to preach the gospel
- God will change their hearts
- The truth is where freedom lies
- Understand they are in the Devil's trap

## 2 Timothy 4:9-15

9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica — Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come — and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. **May the Lord repay him** according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. NKJV

- Sometimes we may feel alone
- Sometimes the things in life consume people
- Stay close to the things God has spoken
- The lord will deliver
- The Lord is the Righteous Judge

## 2 Timothy 4:16-18

16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. **May it not be charged against them.** 17 The Lord Is Faithful but the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! NKJV

- The Lord stands with you!
- He will strengthen, deliver and preserve