

The Potters Wheel – 4

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 starts with a lie – believing it – speaking it – living by 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

The lie: I can do this on my own

The Lie: I must have everyone else's approval

Last Week:

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

The Lie: That's not fair

2 Corinthians 10:3

3 The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way--never have and never will. MSG

In life how many times have you thought, "This is not fair?" How many times have you heard other people protest, "That's not fair!" How often have you wished you had a dollar for every time your kids said, "That's not fair!?"

As kids we all remember...

- "Same seats, same seats!" "No! Not the same seats. I called shot-gun!" "That's not fair!"
- "I'm first in line, I called it!" "No way, I was here first!" "That's not fair!"

What about adults?

- Someone else gets the promotion
- "That's not fair!"
- We have to pay taxes on our income
- "That's not fair!"
- You get stuck behind the crash on US 31S
- "That's not fair!"
- You get the diagnosis
- "That's not fair!"
- You bear the brunt of the company failure
- "That's not fair!"

The lie: Life should be fair (*the 2 go together*)

See life the way it really is: Life is unfair

Isaiah 59:4, 14

4 No one cares about being fair and honest. Their lawsuits are based on lies. They spend their time plotting evil deeds and then doing them.

14 Our courts oppose people who are righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth falls dead in the streets, and fairness has been outlawed. NLT

This was true thousands of years ago and it is true today
This isn't an excuse to have a negative attitude but rather a recognition that we live in a sin plagued world
Life is not fair, nor do we really want it to be

The Prodigal Returns: Give me to Make me

Luke 15:27-32 NLT (The brother)

27 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

28 "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have.'

31 "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you and I are very close, and everything I have is yours. 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!' "

- Celebrate the victory of others
- Realize EVERYTHING Father has for you
- Original text - "At all times joined to me"
 - 1 Corinthians 6:17 one spirit with Him
 - Acts 17:28 in Him we live...
- Life is not fair but God is good!

We must allow the Lord to "Empty Us" of ourselves in order for us to walk in true freedom and prosperity

Jeremiah 48:11

11 "Moab has been at ease from his youth; He has settled on his dregs, and has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into captivity.

Therefore his taste remained in him, And his scent has not changed. NKJV

- Do I have more of my scent?
- Or more of the fragrance of God? – 2 Corinthians 2:14

Jacob returning 20 years after leaving Canaan

Genesis 32:24-25

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. NKJV

Genesis 32:26-28

26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."

But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

27 So He said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." NKJV

- Jacob – Supplanter, Heel Catcher (Dog eat dog)
- Israel – To rule as God

When we come to the end of ourselves we see others differently

Genesis 33:10 (Esau and Jacob meet)

10 And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me. NKJV

Be more concerned about “*being*” fair

We cannot control whether this world is fair, but we can choose to be fair

If we keep our hearts right with God we are a blessing to others – God can bless us more and more

Matthew 5:8

8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. NLT

Joseph and his brothers

- Dreamer
- Sold into slavery – by his brothers
- Thrown into the dungeon
- Interprets 2 dreams
- Baker executed 3 days later
- Forgotten by the cup bearer
- Promoted to Prime Minister
- Joined with his family – silver cup – chance to get back
- Gives them the best land

Genesis 45:1-2

1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. NKJV

- Life isn't fair – be fair anyway
- Don't let circumstances harden your heart
- Let God break through your hard heart
- Forgiveness and Grace bring unmerited blessings
– **Genesis 48:17-19** Ephraim and Manasseh

Genesis 50:20

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. NKJV

- God will complete His good work – **Philippians 1:6**
- God is positioning you for greatness
- Who can I reach out to today?

Above all, remember God is more than fair

Romans 3:23-26

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. NKJV

- He spares us from what we deserve
- He gives us mercy that we do not deserve
- Receive His mercy show His mercy

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory , just as by the Spirit of the Lord. NKJV