

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

Romans 9: 19-23 Monday, April 8, 2019

Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? Romans 9:23

I have always had an interest in pottery and plan to take some classes in the near future at our local Art Center. I enjoy working with my hands and get great satisfaction from seeing raw materials transformed into items of beauty and or utility. I have watched potters at the wheel as they manipulate the clay, forming pots or cups, pitchers and patens.

I have two pieces of pottery from my grandparents. One is a crock which was used for making pickles or sauerkraut. The other piece of pottery is a thunder-bowl, which would originally have included a lid. This bowl would have been stored under the edge of the bed and used as a portable toilet so the owner would not be required to travel to the outhouse in the middle of a cold winter night. Both pieces were very important in their function. The crock is a much more respectable piece of pottery and one you would not mind company seeing. The thunder-bowl on the other hand was kept hidden from sight under the bed and only pulled out when absolutely necessary and then only in private. Both are now on display in my family room, the crock holds dried flowers and the thunder-bowl is full of pine cones. I have elevated the status of the thunder-bowl to a decorator item. When these pots were made from raw wet clay they both looked identical. It was at the discretion of the potter what each lump of clay was to become. The clay had no say or input as to their use, shape or function.

God took a lump of clay and from that clay He created a human body, forming each intricate detail and then blew His breath into the person giving them life. Each of us were formed in our mother's womb and God knew us before we were ever born. We were created for a purpose. Some were created to be pastors others to be laity. But we have all been given the responsibility for the mission of our Lord to create disciples for the transformation of the world. Some of us work in settings of authority and others as individuals with no authority. But each of us have gifts and graces that provide the means to influence others for Christ. Listen during this Lenten Season for God to speak to you and then be obedient to that directing from the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me for Your purpose. Help me to be effective as a lay person in my ministry for Your kingdom. In Jesus name and for His sake I pray, Amen.

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