

Sermon: Praying Jeremiah 18 - "Mold Me"

August 11, 2019 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible (Phone apps are fine. Study Bibles are better)

PRAYING JEREMIAH 18

MOLD ME

- TAKE MY INSECURITY
- TAKE MY INIQUITY
- TAKE MY INDIGNANCY
- TAKE MY INFLEXIBILITY

Questions:

1. Can you think about a good experience that shaped you in a profound way? What about a bad experience? Share with the group.
2. What do you think about the idea that God is working to shape you? Is this encouraging to you or do you struggle with it?
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What in the sermon challenged you? Do you have any questions to discuss?
4. Reread Jeremiah 18:1-6.
 - a) What did Jeremiah need to do before he could receive the special message from God?
 - b) Have you noticed that God starts to reveal more to you when you get serious about obeying His instructions?
 - c) Why do you think God told Jeremiah to physically go to the potter's house? Couldn't God have just spoken the words to Jeremiah?
5. Now read Jeremiah 18:7-10.
 - a) Does this passage only apply to the nation of Israel?
 - b) What is God's desire for all nations?
 - c) In what ways do you think God is working to mold America? In what ways are we resisting Him?
6. Read Jeremiah 19:1-15. The Valley of Ben Hinnom was just south of Jerusalem (it is still there, within view of the Temple Mount). Here, the Israelites had displayed the worst kinds of evil. Topheth was another name for this place (it might come from a Persian word meaning "burning").
 - a) In chapter 18, God called on his people to be malleable (like soft clay), willing to be molded. How has the image of pottery changed here in chapter 19?
 - b) What was Israel's root problem according to v. 15?
 - c) Are there any areas where God may be at the point of breaking you, because you have not been willing to allow the Potter to mold you thus far?
 - d) The Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna in Hebrew) is translated "hell" in the New Testament. Do you see any parallels between this passage and the Bible's description of the final judgment?
 - e) Should Christians be afraid of hell? (see John 3:36 and John 5:24).
7. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
 - a) What man is Paul talking about in verses 1-5?
 - b) Why did God need to give Paul a "thorn in his flesh"?
 - c) What do you think this "thorn" might have been?
 - d) In what ways was God successful in molding Paul through this experience?
 - e) How has God been forming you lately? Has it been painful?
8. Pray for one another's needs. Ask for God to mold you. Ask Him to take away any insecurity, iniquity, indignancy, or inflexibility that has been getting in the way.