

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Good Morning Friends!

We are looking at the metaphor of God as Potter. In an ancient world Pottery was not for decorative pieces... pottery was for everyday functional uses.

We have heard the important message that God formed each one of us in a container to be a container through which God pours God's word and love. Last week we heard how God's people get distracted by worldly things and lose focus, and the prophet Jeremiah calls us to center ourselves on God's will and God's ways.

This week, the imagery is that of a Potter working at the Potter's Wheel. Just what is this metaphor of the potter working at the wheel?

This is probably the most well-known scripture from the Book of Jeremiah. This passage provides the hope for do-overs.

This text gives us is the image of God as the potter who recognizes that the direction of the clay as it is being shaped is not going to bring out its best qualities and so begins to rework it on the wheel.

If God is the potter, then who is the clay?

Many times we think of the clay as us...individuals. But a close reading of this text reveals that it is the whole community... the nation (Israel, Judah). So we must also apply this to ourselves as a faith community... and we could measure our nation in light of this text... how well are we following God's will and God's ways?

As long as the clay is continually worked by the potter, it can still be changed and made into the most beautiful version of itself.

Jeremiah tells us that God is frustrated with the people's actions, but God also knows that the true nature of God's people remains. And so God keeps on keeping on... faithfully working with what is available.

What bible stories come to mind where God gives second chances?

Moses? Jacob? Jonah? Zacchaeus? Think about the stories of healings, where 'outcasts' (physically differently able, suffer with mental illness, even criminals) are restored to community?

Our God truly is a God of second chances. So that leads us to the question for this week...

Are we willing to be molded by the love of God, calling us to be the best version of ourselves possible? If so, then...

How do I/we position myself/ourselves so that I/we can be shaped and molded by the love of God?

Pottery work is very physical...wedging the clay... aligning the clay particles, removing the air bubbles (gas creates cracks, fractures, etc.).

And the pieces that get trimmed and broken aren't trashed... they are placed in the slip bucket...to be reworked, reshaped, and molded once again.

So...**How do we position** ourselves so that God works in us, on us?

- Spending time with God each day
- serving others
- Talking with others
- engaging with other Christians

And, **as a faith community**... engaging with others, serving others... such as our Camp Hope Team.

If you Position yourself as a servant (GPS), choosing to be active in the life of this faith community, if you decide to engage with other servants for a common goal of helping others, then you are responding to the Potter God who seeks to love you and shape you into the vessel God has envisioned you to be. (Aligning your particle & getting rid of gas bubbles!)

May it be so. Amen.