

Multidimensional Leaders – Vessels of Honor

2 Timothy 2:20,21

^{NKV} ²⁰ ***But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.***

^{TLB} ²⁰ In a wealthy home there are dishes made of gold and silver as well as some made from wood and clay. The expensive dishes are used for guests, and the cheap ones are used in the kitchen or to put garbage in.

The appreciation of value in The Body of Christ is that is made up of various people groups according to gender, culture, nationality, gender, races, and age. From all of the different backgrounds, God is calling forth and raising up leaders to take their place within the Kingdom of God. We, the Body of Christ must recognize and appreciate that there are different kinds of vessels God uses also within the house. As a leader or future leader, we must understand the process that a leader goes through in becoming the vessel that our Father desires to use. I was directed to focus on the relationship of the potter with our Father, the process of making a vessel, and the description of the types of vessels God has created within the house.

- I. The Potter reminds us that God is our creator, and He plans and determines the **type** of leader we will be.

Jeremiah 18.2 *Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.*

The Hebrew word for the potter is *yoser* (pronounced *yasar*) which means to fashion, to shape, or to create.

- **Gen. 1:27** - *We are created and sharpened in the image of God*
- **Jeremiah 1:5** - *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”*
- **Consider Psalm 119:73; Job 10:8; 31:15; [Ps. 139:14-16]**

- II. The Word and the hand of God's grace are part of the **process** of **creating** a vessel.

Jeremiah 18.3 *Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.*

A. The process begins with the potter choosing the clay preparing the clay. Every lump of clay is not the same; there are various textures or grades of clay.

1. First, in preparing the clay, the potter washes the clay with water to soften it, and then it is trodden under foot as water is applied to take the air out of the clay and make it pliable to use.
 - **Isaiah 41:25** ... ^(B) *And he shall come against princes as though mortar, as the potter treads clay.*

- **Ephesians 5:26-27** ²⁶ *that He might [Ⓛ]sanctify and cleanse her [Ⓞ]with the washing of water [Ⓛ]by the word, ²⁷ [Ⓛ]that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, [Ⓛ]not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

2. Sitting at the potter's wheel, the potter grabs a lump of clay and forcibly throws it down on the wheel that has been moistened with water.
3. With one foot, he kicks a bar that begins a lower wheel to turn the wheel that clay is lying on.
4. The clay is prepared with water and kneading with the hands until it is flexible and pliable in the potter's hands.
5. As the wheel turns, the potter applies pressure in the center of the clay to create a sunken spot.

With both hands-free and the wheel constantly turning, the potter applies more water to the clay to keep it pliable and soft.

- a. The water is symbolic of the Word of God that God is working in our lives.
 - b. Like the potter applying the water, we constantly have to go the Word to soften the hard areas of our lives.
6. The potter begins to gently apply pressure with his hands on both sides of the clay to begin shaping and molding the clay.
 - The Five-Fold Ministry is represented in the shaping and making of this vessel.
 - A double portion of the grace of God working on the vessel.
 - Both hands were working on the vessel- one on the outside and occasionally one hand smoothing and shaping the inside of the vessel.
 - At the same time, the potter's eyes are looking to see if any of the clay has any rocky substance and lumps that are not cohesive with the clay.
 7. After the vessel is shaped and to the potter's liking, it is set in the sunshine for drying to lose 30% of the water.
 8. Then the vessel is placed in the kiln or positioned in the fire.
 - a. The intense heat continues to draw the water out of the vessel; it shrinks and loses 8% of its size.
 - b. Because there are different grades of clay, not every pot goes through the same level of heat.
 1. Different temperatures for different grades of clays produce different qualities.
 2. The potter also gives special attention to this firing technique.
 9. After the vessel is smoothed and glazed, thrust into the furnace, and retrieved from the fire, the potter now looks at a beautiful creation.
 10. Each vessel bears the potter's trademark or his name.

B. There is a provision for **restoration** if the vessel is willing to be restored.

- **Jeremiah 18.4** *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.*

- C. As leaders, we do not dictate to God the process in how we are shaped or molded or take credit for what He has accomplished in us.
- **NKJV Jeremiah 18:5-6** *Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁶ O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter? says the LORD. Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!*
- D. When going through the process, there may be a tendency to **question** God why He is allowing this or that to take place in our lives.
- **MSG Isaiah 29:15-16** *Doom to you! You pretend to have the inside track. You shut GOD out and work behind the scenes, Plotting the future as if you knew everything, acting mysterious, never showing your hand. You have everything backward! You treat the potter as a lump of clay. Does a book say to its author, "He didn't write a word of me"? Does a meal say to the woman who cooked it, "She had nothing to do with this"?*
- E. There is a spiritual phenomenon called **humility** that must rise up within the leader and prevent the spirit of **pride** from surfacing.
- **Romans 9:20-21** ²⁰ *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"* ²¹ *Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?*
- III. Paul reminds Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:20-21 of the different vessels in the Great House, some of honor and some of the dishonor.
- **2 Timothy 2:20-21.** *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*
- A. Vessels of Honor have a significant role within the house.
- **John 4:7-15**
 - When one is born again, he or she is considered a vessel of honor.
 - The vessels of gold and silver were frequently used for an important role in the household.
 - This vessel frequently visits the well to be replenished.
 - They are known only to a small group of peers. There are so many unsung unfamiliar vessels that only a few people know who you are, but most of all, God knows who you are.
- B. Vessels of Dishonor are self-appointed vessels
- **Ephesians 4:31** ³¹ *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*
 - Placed alongside the vessel of honor for the leftover water to be poured into it. The used and stale water was poured into it.
 - They were used in the kitchen for all of the table scraps, scrapings from the plates, basically for the slop.
 - Open to the garbage of others.
 - We must train ourselves to separate fact from opinion, which will help us avoid becoming vessels of dishonor.

Our daily challenge is to revisit the potter's wheel and remind ourselves that it is God who is shaping and molding us to do His will, for His purpose, and His glory!