

THE POTTER'S HOUSE

JEREMIAH 18

Text: Jeremiah 18:2

(Jeremiah 18:2) "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words."

Introduction:

The prophet is here sent to the potter's house, not to preach a sermon, but to prepare a sermon. Go and observe how he manages his work and there I will cause thee to hear my words. There you will receive a message to deliver to the people.

Notice:

1. THE POTTER (18:1-4)

(Jeremiah 18:1-4) "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 thee to hear my words. {3} Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. {4} And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

A. A type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Formation

(Genesis 1:26-31) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. {27} So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. {28} And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. {29} And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. {30} And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. {31} And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

2. Flaw

(Genesis 3:6-8) "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. {7} And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. {8} And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

(Romans 5:12) "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

3. Fix

(John 3:16-17) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

(Romans 5:8) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 10:13) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2. THE PROMISES (18:5-11)

(Jeremiah 18:5-11) "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, {6} O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. {7} At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; {8} If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. {9} And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; {10} If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them. {11} Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."

A. God's pardon extended (vs 8)

1. Turn from evil, I will repent

B. God's punishment explained (vs 10)

1. If they do evil, I will repent of the good.

3. THE PESSIMISTS (18:12)

(Jeremiah 18:12) "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart."

A. Why try there is no hope.

B. As long as grace is extended there is hope.

(Romans 5:20) "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"

C. The very fact that you are here today give hope.

4. THE PRONOUNCEMENT (18:13-17)

(Jeremiah 18:13-17) "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing. {14} Will a man leave the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field? or shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken? {15} Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient

paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; {16} To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. {17} I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity."

A. Very Horrible Thing

It is a very horrible thing to disregard the grace of God extended to you.

How foolish it is to forsake God. It is described as a thirsty traveler leaving the snow or cold water.

The problem is that we are not thirsting for God.

(Psalms 42:2) "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

(Psalms 63:1) "A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;"

(Psalms 143:6) "I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah."

1. Forgotten God
2. Self consumed
3. Involved in idolatry
4. Became stumbling blocks.

B. Will be scattered

C. Suffer calamity

5. THE POUTING (18:18)

(Jeremiah 18:18) "Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words."

A. Resulted in Hostile hearers instead of Humble seekers.