**The Artistry of His Workmanship**

The Lord can work with our mistakes and bring something beautiful out of our mistakes or poor judgments. I’ve made thousands of mistakes, but the Lord still leads me in His path of righteousness, even if at times, things are more difficult than they needed to be.

Someone once said that our lives are like a book that is being written in Heaven. It is also a book that was already written in Heaven, before we were formed. Or we could liken our life to a tapestry, being continually woven upon the fabric of our lifespan.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* (Eph.2:10).

There are thousands of threads being woven, day after day, month after month, year after year. We cannot see the bigger picture, as the years fly by. We can only see the “short term” effects of the choices we have made. If you look at the back side of a tapestry or a needlework, it looks like a mess, with random threads, clumps and chaos. You could get discouraged, looking at the back view (looking back on all our mistakes and disobedience). But you won’t be allowed to see the completed work, until the Lord shows you your life through His eyes of perfect, intentional, design.

Not only at the end of our life, but even at significant moments along the way, the Lord will graciously give us the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation (Eph.1:17). We must know who we are, and why we were placed here. He will turn the tapestry over to the beautiful side, to give us a glimpse of His handiwork in our lives, and we will be astonished. We will see the most intricate artistry, in filigree and embroidery, in gold and silver strands, and the full spectrum of exquisite threads. Each one has its exact place in our unfolding lives. We are His workmanship, and this tapestry is who we are becoming, before His eyes, the eyes of our Creator.

*And the intricately woven band of the ephod, which is on it, shall be of the same workmanship, made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen* (Ex.28:8).

The excellent fruits of our lives are exhibited in Heaven, when all is reviewed and evaluated. He planned every stitch perfectly. Even the mistakes along the way – He works with them, too. He actually weaves them into something better than if you had never made the mistake at all! That is our loving Father!

**His Sovereign Leadership**

The Lord desires to lead us on these pathways, during our journey through this life. It is hard to picture living every day, without the Lord and His leadership. People try to do it “their way” and want to be independent of God. It would be hard to imagine the beautifully shaped clay pot telling the Master Potter, “*You didn’t make me. I shaped myself so elegantly. I am a self-made Pot, and I can be anything I want. You didn’t make me. I made myself*.” But pride blinds people from the obvious revelation that we are a wonderfully, intricately designed work of Creation.

When you study cellular biology, you could never doubt the existence of Creator God, ever again. That one subject alone disproves Darwinism overwhelmingly. Never mind the galaxies and the whale songs, the rainbow and the stars. Or the unique design of a single snowflake, or the construction of the human eye. Beloved, this subject is so vast that we cannot articulate it in one book.

**The Wet Clay**

The Lord compares His people to wet clay in the hands of a Master Potter. He uses this analogy to refer to three populations:

a) individual people (Rom.9:21)

b) His covenant nation, Israel (Jer.18:3-6)

c) the rebellious nations of the earth (Rev.2:27)

You will see these three populations in the biblical texts below, in the same order as the scriptural citations above:

a. *Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?* (Rom.9:21)

b. *Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred… so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make…Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: “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!”* (Jer.18:3-6).

c*. He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels* (Rev.2:27).

Someone might say, “It is unfair of God to make one vessel for honor, yet make another vessel for dishonor. What chance does that poor person have?” However, look at what Paul tells us about these two types of clay pots: he makes it clear that **if we sanctify ourselves, we can become vessels of honor!**

*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. 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*** (2Tim. 2:20-21).

Isn’t it amazing, what Paul shares? Even if there is a vessel of dishonor, destined to be shattered in the final judgment, each one has the free choice to cleanse himself, to repent, to be “remade” into a noble vessel.

Jeremiah was shown the secret – how can a vessel of dishonor become a vessel of honor, one that the Lord can use? The secret is the wet clay! Let’s go back to what the Lord showed Jeremiah, when he visited the house of the potter, busy at his wheel.

The potter made a mistake at the wheel. The vessel was damaged, and he couldn’t keep working on it, as it was. But because the clay was still wet, he was able to keep changing and re-molding it into what he desired, when he had started creating it. When clay is wet, it is flexible and moldable, and easy to be re-shaped into the right form.

But once the clay dries, it is hard and brittle and can never be made wet and flexible again. If the vessel is marred with a deformity that will keep it from doing its job (i.e., holding liquid), it can only be shattered. It can never be made wet again, and it has no future or hope. I heard a beloved prophet share this word about people being compared to wet clay in the Lord’s hands, as He is working on perfecting us, all of our lives. The Lord revealed that while we are still alive, and our spirit is housed in our mortal body, there is always the possibility of repentance. We are like wet clay, as long as our spirit resides in our flesh, and He can continue to mold us. We can change our “mind,” and change our “will,” so that we are aligned with the Lord’s purposes again.

We can come humbly to the Lord, whose mercies endure forever. Even till our last breath on earth, we can receive the Lord Yeshua’s sacrifice to pay for all our sins. The still-wet clay was remolded by the Potter into a noble vessel. Our spirit will soar to Heaven at the moment we breathe our last, and our spirit leaves the body. But if a person dies without repenting, they remain in their final earthly condition: hardened clay.

*Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain* (Ecc.12:6).