TRUTH FOR TROUBLED TIMES
"The Potter's House" Jeremiah 18-20

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In 609 B.C., when the Assyrian regime collapsed, Josiah was killed and his reforms ended, the people of Judah felt they could relax and get on with living the way they wanted to. But they had one problem—Jeremiah! He stayed "on message." Dramatically.

I. The Potter: An Illustration. 18:1-4
- A. The potter working at the wheel.
- B. The marred clay in his hands.
- C. The decision to remake what he wished.

II. The Point: An Application. 18:5-17
- A. The house of Israel is like clay in the hand of the potter.
  1. Humanity was "formed" by God from the dust. Genesis 3:19
  2. Humanity is molded by the spinning wheel of life.
  3. Humanity is developed by the Sovereign hands of God.
  4. Israel is uniquely called by the Sovereign Lord.
  5. The sovereign Lord rules in the life of the nation.
- B. The potter can do as He wills with the clay.
  1. The Lord can uproot or build up a nation/person.
  2. If the nation/person repents, He relents.
  3. If a nation/person reneges, He reconsiders.
  4. Israel is in danger of judgment.
- C. Unlike clay, people can respond or react.
  1. Israel's response was all too common—It's no use! v. 12
  2. We're stubborn and that's all there is to it!

III. The Prophet: A Remonstration. 18:18-23
- A. A conspiracy against Jeremiah.
- B. A complaint to Jehovah.

IV. The Pot: A Demonstration. 19:1-15
- A. Malleable clay can be molded.
- B. Fired pottery when shattered is beyond redemption.

V. The Price: A Confrontation. 20:1-18
- A. Jeremiah with his feet in the stocks.
- B. Jeremiah with fire in his bones.

Point to Ponder: What describes me? Malleable clay, hardened pot, bones on fire, complainer?