

Topic: Life Lesson from the POTTER'S HOUSE

Biblical Text: Jer 18: 1-12

Introduction:

What a privilege to stand and share to God's people this evening. I am reminded of the great saying of Dr. K Thirumalai in his Forwarding note on the book "**Sacrifice or Investment: A Jubilee Edition**" by Esther Williams in Page 7 (Foreword): "We had no funds, we were no rich, there was no rich foundation or organization standing behind us, and we had no experience. **But we had the Lord of harvest with us and trusted in Him!**"

There is a book called, **The Boiling Point** by George Barna @ Page 99; "**Five contrasting happenings in modern world**" We've been all the way to the moon and back, **but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor**. We've conquered outer space, **but not inner space**. We've done larger things, **but not better things**. We've cleaned up the air, **but polluted the soul**. We've split the atom, **but not our prejudice**.

This is exactly what is happening in our world today!

I hope and pray that the two days Prayers & Planning at Guwahati city would be a great blessing for all the participants/leaders. **No One Else** by D.Augustine Jebakukar in his pre-face – p.xiii > "...though God has called you individually, he expects you to be a team player."

I have been so much enriched by the sharing of visionary leaders like Rev.Dr. H.Songate and Rev.Dr. J.M.Pau who have been a trend setters for many of us. We look to them as spiritual guides. They have been a blessing to us in our humble faith walk in the Lord.

I have been reminded of God's ministering HANDS. **Lesson from the Potter's House** is what I want to share with you this evening.

Context of Jeremiah the Prophet:

1. Jeremiah – God appointed him "as a prophet to the nations" [vs 5].
2. His father was Hilkiyah – the priest of Anathot in the territory of Benjamin [vs 1].
3. The word of the Lord came in the 13th years of Josiah's reigned (son of Amon king of Judah to Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah...Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah till Jerusalem went to exile in Babylon) [vs 2f].

Chap 2 – Israel forsakes God

Chap 3:6 – Unfaithful Israel

Chap 5: Not One is upright

Chap 6: Jerusalem Under siege

Chap 7: False Religion Worthless

Chap 7:30 The Valley of Slaughter

Chap 8:4 Sin and Punishment

Chap 10: God and Idols

Chap 10:17 Coming Destruction

Chap 10: 23 Jeremiah's Prayer

Chap 11: The Covenant is Broken

Chap 11:18 Plot Against Jeremiah

Chap 12:Jeremiah's Complaint

Chap 12:5 God's Answer

Chap 13: A linen Belt

Chap 14: Drought, Famine, Sword

Chap 16: Day of Disaster

Chap 17: 19 Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy

Chap 18: At the Potter's House.

In the setting above, Jeremiah seem to have worn out/burn out in his prophetic vocation.

What are the life lessons we can learn from the Potter's House?

The unique characteristics of Jeremiah were –

- i) He **followed** to the direction of God.
- (ii) He **obeyed** the commands of God.
- (iii) He **spoke** the words of God.

If we observe the potter carefully in his action, we can find three things –

- (i) **Mixing** – soil and water
- (ii) **Shaping** – into visible clay or pot
- (iii) **Forming** – into useable vessel

All of the above can be put into one single word “**Friction**”. In science friction is define as “*the force that opposes the motion of an object or the resistance that one surface or object encounter when moving over another.*”

The prophet life was that of encountering friction – encountering unfaithful Israel and Judah. The people of Israel and Judah lived in spiritual idolatry. The word of God had no value and place in the daily lives of Israel and Judah.

In the present day's Christian ministry in India & Northeast India, (i) we have gone through a time of great spiritual famine. (ii) We are in a vacuum of spiritual dryness. (iii) The needs are greater than ever. (iv) The challenges are ever more. (v) And India needs more than ever before – the prince of Peace.

We are exhorted by early veteran missionary Paul in 2Cor 4:8 -10 “we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandon, struck down, but not destroyed, we always carry around our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also be revealed in our body” and also in 2Cor 11:28 “Beside everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the Churches.”

Let us remind ourselves that –

- (i) We **follow** the direction of God through our IEM leaders
- (ii) We **obey** the command of God through our Spiritual leaders
- (iii) We **speak** the word of God directly from the Living Bible.

Conclusion:

Paul Johanan the founder of Gospel for Asia in his Book, he narrated one incident in Mumbai Airport. As he was embarked at Mumbai Airport toward Heathrow Airport, a small beggar of the same age of his daughter begged alms to him. He was in a dilemma to give. He looks to his daughter who has all her needs but this beggar didn't. He took permission from his daughter to give her new shirt, sweater, and shoe. During the flight, God speaks to him and asks, “Johanan, what would India be without me?” “Lord, India would be poorer than ever without you,” “Then Bless them with my name!”

Are we prepared to bless India as well as Northeast India? Then, let us bless Northeast India with the wonderful Name of JESUS.

Missionary **C.T. Studd** : “*If Jesus be God and gave Himself for me, then no sacrifice that I can make for Him is too great.*” And 29 years old Martyr **Jim Elliot**: “*He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*”