

THE POTTER KNOWS THE CLAY

Our Father is the ultimate potter; He has a masterplan and carefully molds us to His will without ever applying too much pressure.

KEY POINTS

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.”³So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. (Jeremiah 18: 1-6 NLT)

- ❖ Clay is a grainy, formless substance. But in the hand of the potter the clay is molded into something bigger and better. The clay does not know the plan of the potter so it is completely subject to the potter’s will.
- ❖ Once the potter soaks the clay with water, it can then be molded. During the molding process the clay undergoes a major change. However, to sustain the change it went through, it has to go through a hardening process.
- ❖ Similarly, we are like clay in the hands of God. God is the ultimate potter and He has the master plan. God is the one who will shape us to be more than we could imagine, if we follow His will.
- ❖ However, the only way we can sustain the process God is putting us through is by going through the hardening process: the tests, the trials, and the tribulations.
- ❖ God knows that each of us is different. He will never test us more than we can handle (1 Corinthians 10:13). He’d never destroy His clay with too much pressure.
- ❖ We can be assured that the molding and hardening process is only for our good.
- ❖ God is the ultimate teacher as well. Earthly teachers prepare their students for tests by preparing lessons and encouraging them; but still, some students feel anxiety knowing that a test is coming up.
- ❖ On a test, a good teacher would never include material that they haven’t previously prepared the students for.
- ❖ Our God prepares us using the ultimate curriculum – the Bible. He gives us His Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4 KJV)
- ❖ During a classroom test, the teacher is present but silent. This is the time for students to prove their grasp of the concepts they were taught.
- ❖ Our God is an ever-present help in time of need and will never leave us during the test. We can be comforted, knowing He will teach us everything we need to know to move on to the next level.
- ❖ He will never leave us and will never give us a test that is too hard.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Jeremiah 18:1-6, 29:11; Psalm 23:4;
James 1:12; Deuteronomy 31:6

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 NLT)

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you. (Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT)

- ❖ Our God is the ultimate coach. An earthly coach creates game plans and strategies to succeed. He orchestrates practices day in and day out; He will push the players hard but not too hard.
- ❖ Though a coach can’t physically be with the players on the court, he is always on the sidelines yelling plays and adjustments.
- ❖ Our God is the ultimate strategist. God gave us all the strategies we need in the Bible. Though it may sometimes feel like He’s not physically there, He is always present on the sidelines coaching us on how to do better.
- ❖ Often, people – friends, family, teachers and coaches – see more potential in us than we see in ourselves. If humans can see the potential in you, imagine the potential God sees!
- ❖ God, the Ultimate Potter, can mold you into a masterpiece and would never destroy you with too much heat or pressure.
- ❖ The Ultimate Teacher can teach you everything you need to know according to His will and will never give you a test you cannot handle.
- ❖ The Ultimate Coach will put you through practices that may seem grueling but will make you better. He is always present, encouraging and correcting you from a distance.
- ❖ God. Omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. We should not fear that whatever we are going through is more than we can handle. God is just sustaining His master will for our lives
“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “...plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11 NLT)

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Review the roles God plays in our lives as outlined in the lessons and other roles that you have seen Him working in to help us.
2. How can you be like Jesus to someone else and allow Him to use you in a mentoring role?

PRAYER TIME

God, thank You for being my potter, my teacher, my coach. Help me to trust and follow You.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*

Start-up: Were you ever on a team? If so, which one(s)? What are the qualities you most admire/respect in a coach?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>

PRAYER FOCUS: Personal spiritual growth



ANNOUNCEMENTS

August: Events at Huyck's Bay Campgrounds

Thursday 27: Ordination Service (evening)

Friday 28: District Conference (day)

Family Camp Service (evening)

Saturday 29: Family Camp Bible Study (morning)

Conclusion of District Conference (following Bible Study)

September

Friday 5: Faith Family Prayer (Facebook and YouTube)

Sunday 9: First Virtual "Jerusalem Prayer Walk",

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (2nd Sundays via Zoom)

To register for in-person Sunday services (3 options):

- 1) Go to www.faithsanctuary.com > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu;
- 2) **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/faithsanctuarytoronto/events; or
- 3) Go to **Eventbrite:** www.eventbrite.com/e/july-5-2020-sunday-morning-service-tickets-110443601786

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

In-depth Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

AUGUST 23, 2020


Faith
SANCTUARY
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"...but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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