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Who Moved Away?

“Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand.” (Jeremiah 18:6)

When our son, Brad, was in elementary school, the teacher asked the class to shape clay into something. Molded and shaped with his small hands, this red dinosaur type thing that Brad proudly brought home is still on our bookshelf today.

Later in high school, Brad enrolled in a ceramics class. His first pieces were crooked and misshapen, but as time went on he made some pieces of real art-vases, pots, pitchers, and various other kinds of pottery. Many pieces of clay he threw on the pottery wheel, however, took a different direction than he’d intended. Brad would work and work to reshape the clay, and sometimes he would have to start all over, working and working to make it exactly the way he wanted it to be.

With each one of us, God has, so to speak, taken a handful of clay to make us exactly who He wants us to be. He is the Master Potter, and we are the vessels in His hands. As He shapes us on the potter’s wheel, He works on the inside and the outside. He says, “I am with you. I am the Lord of your life and I will build within you a strong foundation based upon My Word.”

The Master Potter also uses the circumstances of life to shape us. But when a child dies, we lose our jobs, fire destroys our homes, finances dissolve, our marriages fall apart, or our children rebel, the Potter can seem very far away. We may feel forgotten by God so we pull away from Him because He “let us down.” As times pass, God seems even more distant, and it seems like the Potter’s work is put on hold. But God said, “I will not fail you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:5).

When we feel far from God, we need to remember that He didn’t put us on the shelf. We are the ones who moved away. He’s ready to continue molding us into the people He intends us to be.

In pottery, the clay is baked at a very high temperature to set the clay so the vessel won’t leak. Sometimes the true beauty of the clay comes out only after the firing. The fires of life can do the same for our faith and our character. When we go through trials we can rest in the knowledge that the Master Potter is at work. AMEN.

Bob Barnes

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

