

“Mold Us Each Day”

11-30-14

Today is the beginning of the season of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *“adventus”* which is a combination word of *“ad”* meaning, *“to”* or *“toward”* and *“ventus”*, meaning more specifically, *“coming”*. The Latin definition is, *“(a thing) about to happen.”* This brings a thought of Expectation.

Look at Isaiah 64. Since the beginning of time, God’s been seen as the Creator of all things, including mankind. He called the people of Israel His own and blessed them over and over. But the people didn’t always follow. They got caught up in the world around them and left what God said for them to do and instead followed others. They sound a little like us!

But now they ask God to come down and make His presence known to the world. The people know they’ve sinned and confessed, and are looking for a restored relationship to God. They’re asking God to shape them and make them new. Verse 8, *“But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

Let’s go to the Potter’s house. The Potter’s day begins early, leaving the house at first light with bags in hand heading to the fields and hills to gather clay. Let’s look at 6 things from this visit to the Potter’s House. Observe what God, the Potter, does to you as clay:

He Put His Thoughts On You. God’s words to Jeremiah are also words for you, *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you and appointed you a prophet to the nations.”* He put His thoughts on John the Baptist and what his mission would be. Isaiah 40:3, *“A voice cries, In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”*

God said in Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* When God looked at you and thought of you, He couldn’t use you as you were. You were lumpy, rocky, stiff-necked, and you had hard spots in you. You didn’t have a good consistency.

So, He Put His Eyes on You. He began to look at you without seeing you for what you are, but for what He knows you can be! Listen to Psalm 33:18, *“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.”* God sees you as His very special child! In Baptism, He declares, *“I have called you by name, you are Mine.”*

He Put His Feet On You. Clay in its natural state is seldom fit for use. Several stages of preparation are usually necessary. The clay has to be softened before it can be fashioned. The clay’s mixed with water and sifted to remove any stones or foreign objects that did not need to be there. This is the process of refining the clay in order to make the very best vessel.

Once refined, the potter places the clay on a clean floor and begins walking on it, back and forth, over and over until all the air pockets are removed. Once the right consistency’s obtained, He picks you up off the floor and places you on the potter’s wheel.

There, He Will Put His Hands On You. While you’re on the wheel, He will begin molding you. This involves applying pressure in certain areas that He needs to change. You may not like these pressures, but please know, He’s the one making the vessel, and He knows what’s best for you!! He’ll form you into the vessel that He desires to

make, not what you think! In His love, the heavenly Potter trims bits and pieces of unwanted “clay” from us shaping us into something useful

Listen to Romans 9:20, *“But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”* Once His hands have formed you into the beautiful vessel, you’re still worthless and without function until He puts you in the fire.

There were two ways of doing this. In the old days, they would “Sun Dry” the vessels. But this had limitations. Vessels done this way could only store dry goods, because liquids would break them down.

Later they started to “Kiln Fire” the vessels. A fine vessel that will harden and hold liquids and maintain its shape had to be exposed to a minimum temperature of 500 degrees. The beauty of properly fired clay is that it will not breakdown or disintegrate, even if buried for thousands of years. He puts us through fiery trials so that as happens with dull clay baked in a kiln, we come out as something beautiful. The amount of Fire Time was also very crucial! The vessel has to stay in the fire long enough for the chemical process in the clay to start working.

He Will Put His Anointing On You. This is the painting of the vessel. This is what makes the vessel attractive. Once removed from the fire, a vessel has to be glazed because if it isn’t, it can only be used once, because bacteria could hide in its pores. However, when a glazed vessel is washed with soap and water you can use it over and over again, because the bacteria have no place to hide. When we receive His glaze, our sin has no place to hide and we are seen as clean, because Jesus has redeemed us by His blood.

Finally He Will Put His Name On You. Every good artist puts his name on his work. As it says in Revelation 22:4, *“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”* As the saying goes, *“The quality must go in, before the name goes on!”* We are wonderful vessels that have been made for the glory of God!

It’s a great thing to be in the hands of the heavenly Potter, our God and Father. He loves you, and through Jesus, has crushed the punishment you deserve for your sin. Where else would you want to be but in His hands? Those hands will work you over, but remember what He’s up to! He’s fashioning you for heaven!

Yield to the hands of the heavenly Potter that you may become something useful and beautiful for all eternity!