Live, Give, Grow, **Go** (63) Hospitality: Cups, Plates, and Pitchers

*O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter.*

*We all are formed by your hand.*

Isaiah 64:8

* My Father’s Day Gift was a 6-week Introduction to *Throwing* Pottery Class at Higher Fire

Centering

* **Being Properly Centered Effects Everything Else**
  + Off-Center keeps the clay off-balance, distorted, and unable to be shaped

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

“…So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back., **2fixing *(centering)* our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith…

* **It Takes Significant Pressure to Center a Lump of Clay**

…**Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Slip

* **Allows Pressure to Shape Rather than Destroy**

**Philippians 3:12-14**

**12I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be.** I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, **which is the reason he made me his.** **13**Brothers and sisters, **I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, 14**I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.

Fired

* **Containers of God’s Goodness & Powers**

**2 Corinthians 4:7-9, 15-16**

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but **we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.** This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. **8**We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. **9**We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed…

* **Used for Other’s “Benefit”**

**15All of this is for your benefit.** And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

* + ***You are the Pottery – The Vessels of Hospitality: the cup, the plate, the serving dish, the pitcher, from which the Lord serves His meal to the Hurting…***
    - Fellowship
    - Comfort
    - Nourishment
* **“That is why we never give up.”**

**16That is why we never give up.**

Our Perspective of and Relationship with Others

**Jeremiah 18:1-6** This is the word the Lord spoke to Jeremiah: **2**“Go down to the potter’s house, and I will give you my message there.” **3**So I went down to the potter’s house and saw him working at the potter’s wheel. **4**He was using his hands to make a pot from clay, **but something went wrong with it. So he used that clay to make another pot the way he wanted it to be.**

**5**Then the Lord spoke his word to me: **6**“Family of Israel, **can’t I do the same thing with you?**” says the Lord. **“You are in my hands like the clay in the potter’s hands.**

* **God is in the process of shaping and reshaping others, like He shapes us…**
  + Grace
  + Humility
  + Patience
  + Compassion