**“God’s Shaping Hand”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 18:1-12

**INTRODUCTION** The LORD wants to give Jeremiah a visual picture of how He is at work. Here is what happens.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 The LORD spoke to Jeremiah. 2 “Stand up and go to the house of the potter and you will hear from me.” 3 So I went to the potter’s house and there he was working at his wheel. 4 But the pot he was making turned out badly so he used the same clay and made it into another pot as it seemed best to him. 5 Then the LORD spoke to me. 6 “People of Israel, can’t I do with you what this potter has done? Look, in the same way that the potter works on the clay I am working on you people of Israel.” 7 At any moment I might decide to pull up a nation or kingdom and get rid of it. 8 But if they listen to my warning and turn from their wicked ways then I might decide not to bring the disaster that I was going to bring on them. 9 At another time I might decide to plant and build up a nation, 10 but if that nation decides to choose evil and does not listen to me, I will reconsider the good plans that I had for them. 11 So tell the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem that the LORD says, “Look out! I am shaping a disaster and forming a plan against you. So, turn back from your disastrous way of living and choose the good way of life I have for you. 12 But they will say, ‘Why should we? What’s the point? We will just live according to our plans and follow the evil desires of our heart.’”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What words would you use to describe how God feels about the nation of Israel?

2. What does God want Jeremiah to learn from watching the potter?

3. Who has the right to shape the clay? Who has the right to shape a group of people? Who has the right to shape you?

4. How is the LORD trying to shape you into a mature disciple right now in your life? How can other believers help you? Will you ask?

5. What are some of the hard things in your life right now that the LORD might be using to shape you?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Spend some time in silence just being with the LORD.

\*Ask him to show an area where you need to be molded so you can be a more mature disciple.

\*Thank him for empowering you with the Holy Spirit and never giving up on you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The LORD is the only One who can shape you into the person you were designed to be. Will you let him shape you through your day to day experiences this week?