

081124

In Jars of Clay

2 Cor 4:7

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Background

It is one thing to create something out of nothing; it is something else entirely to create something *beautiful* out of something *broken*. Yet this is what routinely happens in the course of discipleship! Join us this Sunday as we take a deeper look at God's mastery of the art of formation.

Sermon Text: 2 Cor 4:7 (NIV)

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Please pray for the Japan missions trip this week. They (Hae-rin, Nicole and Gwen) are leaving on Thursday and returning a week later (Aug 15-22).
- b. Over the past week, did you feel like You were formed more and more into Christlikeness (Eph 2:10)? Why or why not?
- c. Over the past week, did you feel more like a masterpiece (Eph 2:10), or more like a jar of clay (2 Cor 4:7)?
- d. In your life, have you ever wished you were different – better at something, more beautiful, stronger, healthier, more talented, gifted differently, etc? Explain. How has God met you in that desire?
- e. Eugene’s example of Kintsugi (re-making of pottery) was a brilliant metaphor for how God makes us even more beautiful through our brokenness, for “He is a God not of prevention, but of redemption.” In other words, God’s *“grace is sufficient for us”* (2 Cor 12:9). Can you look back over your life and see how God has transformed your brokenness into something beautiful? Tell that story if you are able.