

Revelation #32 – Treasures in Jars of Clay

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

– 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Instead of being perfect or having it all together, we are really a bunch of ‘crack-pots’, Or should I say “*cracked*” pots. It always amazes me how soon after a person becomes a Believer, they are told not only to read the Bible and go to church, but that they need to be a “*good*” person and act differently somehow to prove they are really saved. How sad that the Religious-minded encourage them to start on a journey of performance and perfection rather than true freedom and joy in relationship with a loving God. Jesus Himself said in Mark 2:17, “*I didn’t come to save the righteous but the sinner, I didn’t come for the well but for the sick!*”

I love the cool visual about the reality of how Gods’ glory is reflected through us NOT by being perfect but by being transformed! I think it is our normal human nature and our shame that tries to cover up our weaknesses and flaws, but God is saying He is going to let His power and glory shine through those flaws! Instead of trying to forget or hide all our failures and flaws, He wants to transform them into something far more beautiful and glorious! Even when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He came with the scars and holes in His body!

I recall the sharing of a story about a woman who wished she could remove all the scars and stretch marks from having babies because it didn’t look good to her. And the man of God said, “*Sure, I can do that for you! But only if you are willing to give up your children!*” Or like the story of the 10 Lepers who were healed but only 1 returned to give thanks. The nine just wanted to forget the past and act like it never happened, but one had a heart of gratitude that wanted to acknowledge and declare the truth, “*I once was lost but now I’m found!*”

In the ministry room, we have found that people need to be able to see the WHOLE truth about who they are and what they have done in their lives, in order to achieve lasting healing. If they are living a lifestyle of performance and hiding or pretending to have it all together, they are not going to be willing to take an honest look at their own baggage, sin, or failures. It becomes a block to their healing! This scripture gives us permission to not only be willing to look at the old stuff, but to allow God to take hold of it and to transform it into something of eternal value!! This has been such a valuable way of helping people become more transparent and open about everything in their life, even what they always saw as something ugly and dark, and exposing it to His light! We often find that people are willing to share the deepest secrets they have never shared with anyone when they feel safe enough and not judged!

In Isaiah 61:1, God says, “*I came to heal the broken-hearted, to set at liberty those that are bound, to set the captives free...*” For that to happen, we have to be willing to see it all and then turn it all over to HIM and receive His forgiveness and transforming power! I love how He takes even my worst sins and failures and hurts and turns them into the jewels in my crown. They become my greatest treasure and assets! They help change and develop in me Godly character! As I am transformed, they become my credentials and my qualifications for ministry! My degrees and successes and knowledge are NOT my credentials, but how I have walked through life’s trials and difficulties that establish my true position of authority and power!

When I can embrace the need and purpose of seeing ALL my life, then it opens me up to see how GOD sees me, NOT just the flaws, but the finished work! I love how Lance Welnuu refers to the Sanctification process by reminding us of the truth that *"we are all seated at the right hand of God in Christ Jesus!* Now our butt has to catch up with our face!" We are ALL in the process of being supernaturally transformed and renewed. This is a great equalizer! There is not one of us who can forego this process! It is God's job to keep His promise to finish the amazing work He has begun in us! (Philippians 1:6) Even what the enemy means for evil, HE will turn into something good! (Genesis 50:20)

God's transforming power is like the Japanese Kintsugi method of taking a broken piece of pottery and putting it back together with gold and other precious materials, making it far more valuable and beautiful than just the original plain pottery

SO, let your light shine! It's HIS light anyway, and He wants us to not put it under a bushel, right? The glory He has placed within us is so precious to Him, He doesn't want any of it to be lost or tarnished or hidden! And He does it through broken vessels like us! WOW! His ways really are SO far higher than our ways! May you let His glory shine in and through you as you allow Him to heal and transform all the broken areas in your heart and life. It's time to face the fear and shame and to let HIM use it all for His glory! He loved us even before we were transformed, and He is NOT intimidated by any of our brokenness! All glory and praise to Him who loved us, died for us, and is even now waiting to spend eternity with us as our loving Bridegroom! Hallelujah!!