CHANGING LIVES IS HIS BUSINESS

Deepening Your Christian Life - Part 6

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**Isaiah 64:8 (NIV) – Memory Verse**   
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

**Jeremiah 18:1-6 – Scripture Reading**

We’ve learned that Jesus is the God-Man. Such a study, however, could leave us with the erroneous idea that His life was merely a theological phenomenon with little practical value. Not so! As we are soon going to learn, He touched people where they were and changed their lives. Such changes were often dramatic, creating a stir among those who witnessed the change. Changing lives is our Lord’s continual ministry. He begins with the raw material of our own humanity and, as times passes, He faithfully works with us, stays by our side, empowers us with new strength, and ultimately reshapes and remakes us into vessels of honor for His greater glory.

GOD AS OUR POTTER

* **God Changes Us For Our Good**

**Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)**   
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

* **We Are His Masterpiece (Workmanship)**

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT2)**   
For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

* **What God Starts, He Finishes**

**Philippians 1:6 (NLT2)**   
And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

THREE LIVES THAT JESUS CHANGED

1. **The Wayward Woman**

**John 4:39-42 (NLT2)**   
Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

2. **The Blind Beggar**

**John 9:18-25 (NLT2)**   
The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. They asked them, “Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?” His parents replied, “We know this is our son and that he was born blind, but we don’t know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.”   
His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That’s why they said, “He is old enough. Ask him.” So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.” “I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

3. **The Doubting Disciple**

**John 20:24-28 (NLT2)**   
One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came.   
They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”   
Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”  “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.