

SMALL GROUP LESSON

DECEMBER 3, 2017

THE MERCIFUL POTTER

ROMANS 9:17-33 AND JEREMIAH 18:6-12

In these two passages of Scripture Jeremiah and Paul are speaking about the sovereignty of God, especially as it relates to the people of Israel. They are raising a number of questions that are related not only to the Jewish people but to all people. Let's take a look at them.

1. Like a potter who shapes clay into a decorative bowl or vase or a carpenter who selects various kinds of wood for a piece of furniture, does God have the right to choose whom He wishes to use to fulfill His purposes for humanity?
2. Do we as human beings have the right to argue with God about the way in which He has chosen to use us? Job, for example, argued with God and questioned His right to subject him and his family to so much pain and heartache. What happened, however, when he was given the opportunity to stand before God and demand an explanation for his suffering? Read Job 42:1-6.
3. Did God have the right to reject the Jewish people and reach out to the Gentiles? If so, why? Read Jeremiah 18:11-12 and Romans 9:30-33.
4. What about us individually or even as a nation? Does God have the right to shape and mold us according to what He desires for us to do and be? And does He have the right to cast us aside if we resist and refuse to be shaped by His hand?