



"Life on Mission"
Part 10 – "A Clay Pot for Jesus"
2 Cor. 4:7-18
March 17, 2019

We must see ourselves as "clay pots" to be on mission for Jesus. Why?

1. To put God's power on display. (2 Cor. 4:7-9)

- It's not about us.
- It's not about our circumstances.
- It's not about what others do to us.

2. To put our weakness on display. (2 Cor. 4:10-12)

- To reveal our need for the death of Jesus.
- To reveal our need for the life of Jesus.
- To reveal our need for the inner renewal of Jesus.

3. To put God's grace on display. (2 Cor. 4:15)

- Sharing His life and power with others.
- Sharing His grace with others.

4. To put God's glory on display. (2 Cor. 4:14, 15b, 17, 18)

Application:

1. Do you tend to focus too much on the outward circumstances or appearance of your life? How does the illustration of the clay pot help you see what is most important in your life?
2. How does the Spirit renew you every day? Though your outward life might be difficult, how can you see God's power in your spirit?
3. Life on mission is pointing people to the power of Jesus. In our weakness, in our failure the story of God's grace can become very powerful.



Life Group Questions/ Discussion

Main Thought of the Study – When we are on mission for the Lord the focus must be on Jesus in us and through us more than on us. We are to be the humble container of an amazing treasure.

Introduction Discussion – Our culture is overflowing with “disposable” products. Make a list of all the things that we use and throw away. Have you ever spent time at a waste management site and observed all that is thrown away? What was the strangest item you have ever seen that was discarded?

Reflections from the Message

1. The tenth illustration given to us concerning our life on mission for the Lord is the picture of a clay pot. (2 Corinthians 4:7) Clay pots were of little value in themselves. People could make them, use them and discard them. (The most common discovery in Israel at digs are clay pots.) The effectiveness of our mission for the Lord will not be found in us but when people see the Lord in us. (Colossians 1:27) Share a time when in your weakness the Lord gave you His power.

2. The “clay pot” can get beat up and dinged, but that does not diminish the treasure within us. Jesus tells us that when we choose to follow Him that we need to “die daily.”

(1 Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20; Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 4:10-12) Share with one another what it means in your walk with Christ “to die daily.” Discuss how pride can destroy our mission for Jesus both as individuals and as a church. Our mission becomes powerful when people see what in us? (2 Corinthians 4:10-12)

3. Our “clay pot” is wasting away. (2 Corinthians 4:16) What does Paul call our bodies in 2 Corinthians 5:1? Share any recent reminders that your body is “wasting away.” What promise does Paul give to us in 2 Corinthians 4:16? Is it possible for something good to be seen in the tough physical trials of life? Share some examples of something good happening inside you when everything outside you is hard. What should we remember according to 2 Corinthians 4:18?

4. The clay pot idea keeps the glory going to God and not to us. (Psalm 115:1) Describe the glory that is waiting for us in heaven. (2 Corinthians 4:14, 17) As we live on mission we are seeking His glory in everything we do. Share with one another some practical ways to remember it is for His glory.

Application:

1. Think of someone that has inspired your walk with Christ because of the trials that they have endured. Write them a note and thank them for their testimony.

2. Think of some new ways to worship the Lord and give Him praise. Begin a journal to keep track of what the Lord is doing in your life. Begin every day thanking Him...end every day thanking Him.

3. Is there someone you could encourage this week to renew their inner spirit, etc? Can you do something as a group?