

## Have thine own way Lord

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### Introduction

1. Text Jeremiah 18:1-10
2. The song Have thine own way Lord comes from this passage.
3. In the original the song had four verses, you can find some old song books that do have it this way, I have several.
4. In first verse the writer of the song is using this as her thought; in the second verse she was thinking of Psalm 51:7; and in the last she was thinking of Gal 2:20
5. The thought of the potter and clay is also found in Rom 9:20-21
6. When Jeremiah went to the lower part of the city to view this potter's wheel this is what he saw; two circular stones connected by a vertical axis. The lower disk was worked by the foot. This in turn set in motion the upper disk upon which the potter worked the clay. Smith, College Press. Page 357
7. As the Potter, the Lord works with man, and by His gracious providence and through the teaching of His word, he endeavors to make something noble out of him; but each individual has the freedom to either accept or reject His word . Jeremiah, Firm Foundation Lectureship Page 370-371
8. Three lessons that we can learn from the potter and the clay

### II Discussion

- A. God has a divine ideal that is possible for every person.
  1. God created man in his own image and for His glory. Is 43:7
  2. Man's whole duty is to fear God and keep his commandments. Ecclesiastes 12:13
  3. By doing this man honors God, and can dwell with Him again. Isaiah 48:17; Psalm 73:24
  4. God wants all men to be saved, I Timothy 2:4
  5. This ideal of the Potter is attained only through implicit faith in God and willing obedience to all of His commands.
  6. Just as the clay must respond to the shaping hand of the potter, human beings must respond to the Lord, thus achieving the divine ideal of God's.
- B. When individuals refuse to obey God it is no longer possible for the Potter to make of his a beautiful vessel.
  1. Sin mars the clay so that it is never as beautiful as the ideal. The bird with a broken wing never soars as high again.
  2. Although marred by sin, man can repent and return to the Lord, then through the mercy of God, he can be forgiven and progress to a life of usefulness.
  3. This was what God wanted for Israel but they did not want it so. Jeremiah 18:6,12
  4. This theme is in the New Testament as well, II Time 2:20-21
  5. Manasseh the son of Hezekiah is an illustration of this. II Chronicles 33
  6. The Prodigal son is another example of this too. Luke 15:11-24
    - a. He wasted his inheritance showing the high cost of sin.
- C. If by continual rejection of God's word a person hardens his heart, eventually no change will be possible.

1. Opportunities have limitations
2. The point of transition between pliability of the clay and the hardness of the bottle may be reached. Jeremiah 19:11
3. The heart can become too hard. Hebrews 3:8; 6:4-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
4. There is hope as long as the person lives! But after death there is no second chance. Luke 16:26; Matthew 25:10-13

### III Conclusion

1. Are we moldable?
2. Are we willing to be made in the image that God has for us?
3. We do this by submitting to His will, before it is too late.
4. Done those things but have sinned, but come back to the table and let God mold you again.

Sermon by Joe Smith, Are we Moldable; Bulletin article from Warner Robins church, July 19, 1998. College Press Commentary on Jeremiah, Firm Foundation Lectureship on Jeremiah Vol 1