

The Book of 2 Timothy
Chapter 2 Part 2
“A Vessel For Honor”

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(Hold up 2 Cups)

Which one of these 2 cups or “**Vessels**” would you prefer to drink from?

The Ceramic Cup, Right?

Why did you choose it? Because it is more beautiful, verses the paper cup, that is plain and ordinary.

Now look inside the one that you chose.... *(Show the inside of the Ceramic Cup)*

Would you still want to use the Ceramic Cup now that you have seen all of the filth that is inside of it?

No matter how beautiful it is on the outside, if the inside is filthy, it is UNFIT FOR USE isn't it?

2 Timothy 2

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Now what if we cleansed the inside of the beautiful Cup, would it then be useful for you?

How do we cleanse it? We have to make a conscious effort to take it to the water and wash it out.

We can sit and stare at this beautiful cup all day and wish that it was clean and useful, but the bottom line is that it is not going to get clean unless we take it over to the water and cleanse it.

Paul uses this illustration of the “Vessels of Honor and the Vessels of Dishonor as I used these 2 cups to illustrate to you this morning, what kinds of people Jesus can use.

Even as we would never think of using the Beautiful on the outside, filthy on the inside cup, Jesus cannot use us if after he has made us beautiful by forgiving our sin and cleaning us of our sin, if we go on and put the filth of this world back inside the cup.

You are Jesus treasure this morning, if you have given your life to Him. Jesus left heaven, gave up everything to come to the earth and get you, His treasure out of this earth.

But if we continue on after we know Jesus, by putting the filthy things into our Vessel, no matter how beautiful we are to Jesus the Master, we are unfit for use by Him.

Jesus only uses Clean Vessels, even as you only want to drink from a clean cup.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

The real treasure that you are is hidden inside that earthen Vessel of your Body.

- **Sorry to disappoint you** but your Body, Even your beautiful face, are not what makes you Jesus Treasure.
- **The real you is the Spirit** that lives inside of that body, that has been Born Again by the Holy spirit.
- **Well, how does** that treasure get out? The Earthen Vessel has to first be Broken.

A couple months ago, we went through a very interesting study in the Book of Judges that illustrated for us, just how the Lord get the treasure in us, out of the earthen vessel of our flesh

- **There was a period** of time in Israel's history that is called the "Time of the Judges"
- **Before Saul** became Israel's first king, they were ruled by "**Judges**". Those that God would raise up during a time when the nation had fallen away from the Lord, and were being oppressed by the pagan nations around them.
- **The people would cry out to the Lord** to help them in repentance and a desire to return to Him, and do he would raise up these "Judges" as leaders to defeat the enemies that were attacking them.

One of the most colorful of these Judges was "Gideon". Like most of the people that the Lord used, Gideon did not think he had any talents or abilities that qualified him to serve the Lord as a Judge.

Judges 6

1 Then **the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,**

2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

3 So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

6 **So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.**

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites,

8 that **the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel**, who said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

9 and **I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.**

10 Also I said to you, “I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.’ ”

11 **Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.**

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “**The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!**”

13 Gideon said to Him, “**O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.**”

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, “**Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?**”

15 **So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”**

16 And **the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”**

17 Then he said to Him, “**If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign** that it is You who talk with me.

36 So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—

37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; **if there is dew on the fleece only**, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”

38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, “**Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.**”

40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

Judges 7:1

1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so **that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.**

2 And **the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’**

3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, **“Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.**

4 But **the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, “This one shall go with you,’ the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, “This one shall not go with you,’ the same shall not go.”**

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And **the LORD said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.”**

6 And **the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men;** but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

7 **Then the LORD said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand.** Let all the other people go, every man to his place.

In Judges chapter 7, the Lord called Gideon to gather the 300 man army for battle and to place into their hands the most unusual objects you could imagine, to be used to fight and defeat the Midianites.

Judges 7:15-19

15 And so it was, **when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped.** He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, **for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.**”

16 **Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.**

Now, how would you like to go up against 135,000 fierce skilled professional soldiers with 300 men that drink water like a dog? All that all they have in their hands to go into this battle are a Trumpet, a Pot or Earthen Vessel and a Torch?

17 **And Gideon said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:**

18 **When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”**”

19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him **came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.**

1. **Gideon gave** each of the men a trumpet, or “**Shofar**” in Hebrew, the rams horn. **The Shofar was blown to gather Gods people together.**
2. **Gideon also gave them** an empty pitcher, a jar or “Earthen Vessel.”
3. **They are to make this empty pitcher** into a “Lamp”.

4. **They were to take a torch** and put it into the jar.
5. **As the torch goes into the Jar**, the flame dies down and the torch begins to smolder.
6. **In Verse 19** above, Gideon gives the command to **“Break the Pitchers open”**.
7. **As the Earthen Vessel is broken**, the light becomes a fire again.

Did you catch what the Holy Spirit is illustrating for us here. Remember nothing in the bible is there by accident, Jesus said every punctuation mark is there for a reason.

1. We have an **“Earthly Vessel”**, with **“A light placed inside of it”**.
2. **When the Earthen Vessel is broken**, the light comes out for everyone to see.

2 Corinthians 4:6-11

6 For **it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness**, who has shone **in our hearts to give the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, **that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us**.

8 **We are hard-pressed** on every side, yet not crushed; **we are perplexed**, but not in despair;

9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed—

10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body**.

11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Now, do you understand?

1. **We are just Earthen Vessels**, made from the dust of the earth.
2. **When you first believed** that Jesus died for you, He put His light inside you, the earthen vessel.
3. **What was preventing the light from shining through?** the earthen vessel
4. **The only way** that the light of Jesus can be seen and manifested, **is through having the earthen vessel broken!**
5. **It is only when you are so completely broken** that Jesus can really begin to shine through your life.

If you ever see someone who is letting the light of Jesus shine in their life, it will always be because they have had their earthen vessel broken.

This is the meaning behind what Paul is saying to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:20

2 Timothy 2

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

There are 2 kinds of people here this morning in this Sanctuary:

1. **You have given your life to Jesus**, asked Him to forgive all of your sins and come and live inside of you.
2. **You have not yet understood** how wonderful Jesus is and what he has done for you, how much he suffered on that Cross, to pay for all the wrong you have done.

The only difference between anyone that is going to heaven and those that are not going to heaven is **Jesus**.

The Bible says that Jesus is the Creator of the Universe, He made you. In your own way you have rebelled against God and broken His law, you are therefore guilty and under the penalty of eternal death.

John 3:18

“He who believes in Jesus is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

But Jesus was not content to leave you that way. There was no way that you could ever be good enough to make yourself acceptable to God. So Jesus, being perfect, came and was born as a man like us, then took on the Roman Cross, all of the sin of every person that has ever been born and PAID THE PRICE we owned for our sin.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This morning, your sin, all of it, has been paid for. The only thing standing in the way of your being forgiven and having the promise that you will go to heaven is to ACCEPT JESUS SACRIFICE FOR YOU.

Romans 10:9

...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

And this is very important: THERE IS NO OTHER WAY FOR YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN OR BE SAVED, except through Jesus.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

If you are a good person and hoping that by being a good person God will accept you into heaven. I am sorry but Good people do not go to heaven, only Saved people go to heaven.

No matter how good we might be, without Jesus our Goodness is never enough

Romans 3:10,12

10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Even if you have kept most of the 10 commandments, that is not good enough...

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

I pray that if you are here this morning and you have not yet made a decision for Jesus, that you would receive His offer of a full pardon before you leave.

For those that are here and know how wonderful Jesus is, We understand what it means to want to be used by Jesus.

- **There is nothing in this world** that is more fulfilling than knowing that your life has a purpose as Jesus is using you to touch people lives.
- **The point** of Paul’s’ description of Vessels for honor and Vessels for dishonor is:

2 Timothy 2:21

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

When Jesus Died for your sins and you accepted His sacrifice for you, you were “**JUSTIFIED**”, just as if you had never sinned in all of time and eternity.

When you desire to totally belong to Jesus and you take steps in your life to cleans yourself from all the junk that is in the world, then you are being “**SANCTIFIED**”.

- **The people** that become usable by Jesus are those that are taking the necessary steps to get all of the junk out of their life, so as to remain a “**CLEAN VESSEL**”.
- **What kinds of things** are we taking about”

Can I just cut to the chase here and tell it like it needs to be said?

1. **R rated movies**, with explicit sexual content or explicit language.
2. **Secular music** that glorifies the lifestyle of the world.
3. **Books or novels** that glorify the life style or things of this world.

4. **Language** that is filthy or has a filthy innuendo.
5. **Guys, Eyes** that lust after a woman.
6. **Ladies**, “Shop till you drop”.
7. **The attitude that chooses on a consistent basis**, the things of the world rather than time with the Lord or other believers.
8. **Getting caught up in the pursuit of all of “THE STUFF”**, Thinking about it, Wanting it, Buying it, and then worrying about it,

“If anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a Vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

So, the Lord is calling us this morning into a deeper, more committed, more set apart life than ever before in our life....

Are you willing, then tell Him this morning.

Sometimes, become a Vessel for Honor for Jesus Use is a process of going through the furnace of Trials, disappointments, hurts, failures and setbacks.

If you ever travel to the middle east, you will find that there are potters that create on a potters wheel, jars that are called “Vessels”

If you turn the Pot over, on the bottom you will find an inscription in the clay that says “**Dokiamas**”.

In the Greek language “**Dokiamas**” means “**Approved**”. It literally means someone or something that has been put to the test and has measured up.

This inscription is placed on those Vessels or Pots that have been through the furnace, through the fire but have not cracked.

You see, in the “Firing” process that all pots go through, all of the impurities that are in that clay are burned away, leaving only a Vessel that is Approved and useful for service.

- **Paul uses this illustration** of a Useful Vessel or Pot to describe our qualifications by Jesus to be used by Him.

If you are in the fiery furnace right now, know that it is for a very good purpose.

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego refuse to compromise in their following of the Lord in the Old Testament, they were thrown alive into a fiery furnace that was heated 7 times as hot.

[Daniel 3:19-25](#)

19 Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. **He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.**

20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to **bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.**

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and **were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.**

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

23 And **these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.**

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, **“Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” ¶ They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”**

25 “Look!” he answered, **“I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”**

They wanted to be set apart for the Lord, useful to Him, Vessels of Honor, prepared for every good work, but it cost them didn't it?

- **If you are saved this morning** and you are determined to purify your life of all of the junk and be a Vessel for Honor for Jesus, it is going to cost you allot.
- **You will go into the fiery furnace of trials,** you will suffer loss and disappointment, you will get discouraged and want to quit.

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

But notice also, that when Shadrach, Meshach and abed-nego went into that Fiery Furnace, WHO WAS IN THE FURNACE WITH THEM?

25 “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

- **When you are in that fiery furnace** being purified, having all of the dross, the worthless things burned away, Jesus promises to be right there with you.
- **Did you notice** that the only thing that was burned in the fiery furnace was the Ropes that had bound them!:
 1. *22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.*
 2. *20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 25 “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire...*

Knowing then what a “Vessel of Honor” is and what it takes to become one...

2 Timothy 2

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

2 Contrasts here as we finish this morning. Things to “Flee From”, and things to “Flee To”

Flee From:

- 1. Youthful Lusts.**
- 2. Foolish Disputes, Arguments**

Flee To:

1. Righteousness.
2. Faith.
3. Love
4. Peace
5. Be Gentle to All
6. Able to teach
7. Patient
8. Humble in correcting others

Fleeing these 2 and Fleeing to these 8, ALL BECAUSE WE WANT TO BECOME A VESSEL OF HONOR THAT JESUS CAN USE.

Notice How Jesus will use you as a Vessel for Honor:

*...if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

If you are:

- **Pursuing Righteousness**, Pursuing the doing of the Right things in your life
- **Faith**, Trusting in the Lord Jesus, even when you cannot see or understand.
- **Love** people the way Jesus loves them, by giving up your Rights, doing good to people who hate you, use you and persecute you.

- **Peace with everyone** as much as it depends on you...
- **Be Gentle to All**, soft answers, gentle spirit, not proud or boastful or angry.
- **Able to teach**, if you do these above, you will be able to teach because people will receive teaching from you.
- **Patient**, Well this is a tough one, waiting on people, waiting on The Lord, letting time pass, lots of time before you are ready to give up on people or the Lord.
- **Humble** in correcting others:, The only one that can really correct someone, the only person that will be allowed to correct someone, is a person that is very Humble, absent from Pride.

Becoming that vessel for Honor, that is Usable by Jesus, is someone that is Cleaning themselves of the Youthful lust that the rest of the world is chasing, and someone that is not participating in arguments and disputes.

If you do these, then Jesus will use you to help people

... come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will

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