**Jeremiah 19:1-15**

***“The Hardened Vessel”***

Introduction:

1. Are you a hardened vessel? You are going to do it your way. God can’t mold your life.
2. In Jeremiah 18 the clay is pliable. If the potter can remake the clay, can’t the Potter remake your life? In Jeremiah 19, Jeremiah goes again to the potter’s house: the clay pots are hardened and broken.

Are you a hardened vessel?

**I. THE REVELATION OF THE HARDENED VESSEL 19:1-3,10-11**

 ***A. The Source Of The Revelation 1-3***

*Thus saith the Lord…I shall tell thee v. 2…Hear the word of the Lord…I will bring*

1. God knows your character, your constitution and your conduct.
2. He knows whether you are pliable or hardened.
3. He wants you to know that He knows. **In sin, God is the offended party!**

 ***B. The Substance Of The Revelation 1***

*Go and get a potter’s earthen flask*

1. Archaeologist Philip J. King lists some things needed to perform his craft: *Associated with the potter’s workshop were the potter’s wheel, a space for treading, a kiln, a field for storing vessels, a dump for the discards, and a source of water, either a cistern or stream.*
2. One of these is a requirement for Jeremiah 19…*a dump for the discards.* Jeremiah 19 is the story of Jeremiah’s trip to the pottery dump.
3. The *earthen flask* the clay jar was a *baqbuq…*a flask 4” to 10” high with a wide body and narrow neck and a small handle for pouring. Its name came from the gurgling sound water made when passed through the narrow opening *baq buq, baq buq, baq buq.*

 ***C. The Subjects Of The Revelation 1c***

**1.** Ancients of the people. These represented the whole of Judah.

 **2.** No matter how important..how well known…how old or how young…everyone…

 anyone can be hardened by sin. *There is none righteous, no not one. All like*

 *sheep have gone astray. For all have sinned!*

 ***D. The Scene Of The Revelation 2, (6,11,12,13,14)*** *“Topheth”*

**1.** God sent Jeremiah SW outside of Jerusalem. The entire party went straight to the

 garbage dump outside the city…the Valley of Ben Hinnom where rubbish was

 left to burn.

1. Here human sacrifices were offered, thus the name *Valley of Slaughter.* Because of its connection with child sacrifice, Josiah had made this area a garbage dump. *Gehenna* is the name in the New Testament…*hell, eternal torment.*
2. *The East Gate, Potshed Gate* is where potters tossed pieces of broken pottery.

 ***E. The Sense Of The Revelation 3, 10-11***

 **1.** *Whosoever hears…*God is going to bring judgment on these hardened vessels.

 **2.** The *tingly* feeling…Jeremiah describes the feeling one gets when they hear news

 of a sudden death or tragic accident. *Gehenna…*hell…judgment should make us

 quake…*tingle.*

**3.** *v. 10* Then Jeremiah does something that would ring forever in the ears of these

elders. *Then break the jar…*So right in the middle of his sermon he dashes the

 vessel to the ground.

*\*I will smash this nation…just as this potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired.*

*\**The elders look at the *baqbuq* shattered in hundreds of pieces. It speaks of God’s wrath. At the end of a God-rejecting life is judgment! Chapter 18 clay can be reshaped…once it is hardened, fired…all that remains is smashing by God.

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**II. THE REASONS FOR THE HARDENED VESSEL 19:4,5, 13-15**

*They deserve punishment...there are 5 reasons.* “*Because*” *(vss. 4,13,15)* Jeremiah lists

 the sins of the people. They and we deserve punishment!

1. ***They have forsaken Me...v. 4***
2. They have abandoned God…like a baby left on a door step or a husband walks out on his family.
3. We in America have forsaken God. Have you?
4. ***They worshiped false gods...v. 4***
5. We have followed other gods. The list is endless: money, sex, drugs, pleasure, food, beauty, success, comfort, self gratification, etc.
6. *In God we trust…*in whom or in what do you trust?
7. ***They sacrificed their children...v. 4c, 5***
8. Literally, 4b, 5 *filed this place with the blood of innocents.* They built places to Baal to burn their sons with fire.
9. We are literally sacrificing children through abortion. We sacrifice our children to which god…for which god???
10. ***Astrology, Astronomy…They received their directions from something other than***

***God v. 13***

**1.** They gave their all to other gods.

 **2.** That which should go to the one true God went to another god. That’s why you

 have trouble tithing!

1. ***They have hardened their necks...v. 15***
2. They refuse to yield.
3. *That they might not hear…*They had their minds made up. **That is why they**

**are hardened!**

Are you a hardened vessel?

**III. THE RESULT OF THE HARDENED VESSEL 19:6-9, 12,13a,15a**

Everything listed here happened in 586 B.C. by Babylon right down to the cannibalism in 70

 A.D. The whole city would be destroyed!

 ***A. The Agent Of Judgment 7,8,9,11,12*** *“I will” “Will I”*

**1.** In sin, God is the offended part.

 **2.** Sin must be paid for…*it’s a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God!*

(Romans 9:21-23) God has the right to destroy His creation!

 ***B. The Awfulness Of Judgment 7-9,12,13a,15a***

**1.** The payment for sin is awful. This literally happened.

 **2.** This is nothing compared to the awfulness of Hell. (Luke 16:23-24, 27-28)

Are you a hardened vessel?

**IV. THE RESOLUTION FOR THE HARDENED VESSEL**

There Is **One** Answer: **JESUS**

 ***A. He Speaks***

Jesus spoke more of Hell than of Heaven! *Gehenna fire* He used this burning dump

 to picture the lake of fire. Luke 16

***B. He Substitutes***

 **1.** He paid the penalty for your sin.

 **2.** *Who His own self bore our sins in His own body that we might be made the*

 *Righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ. (I Pt. 2:22-24)*

1. *He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the*

*righteousness of God in Him. (II Cor. 5:21)* **He became what we were (sin) so we could become what He is (righteous).**

***C. He Saves***

**1.** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever*

 *believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

**2.** *But as many as received Him to them gave He the power to become children of*

 *God even to them who believe on His name. (John 1:12)*

1. *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans*

 *10:13)*

***Are you a hardened vessel? COME!!!***