

# In Hands of The Potter

Sermon #1030

Study by W.D. Frazee—September 8, 1967

Something in this world must be very valuable to Jesus, for He made a long expensive trip to get it, didn't He? Think of it, friends, as the girls just sang, He would have done it all just for me, just for you. That is what He wanted. Is He going to get what He came after? Is He going to get you? How much of you, is He going to get? Our text this evening is the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jeremiah, beginning with the first verse.

How often in the Scriptures, illustrations from daily life are used to teach us wonderful spiritual lessons. Here the Lord sends the prophet down to the potter's house.

"The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel" Jeremiah 18:1-6.

We sing about it, don't we?

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

That is what God wants, He wants you and me to be like clay in the Potter's hand. How many of you have seen a piece of pottery made by the potter, may I see your hands? Most of you, there are various ways of doing it of course, but the essential idea is the same as Jeremiah describes here. A wheel turning. In those days it was propelled by the foot of the potter, with his foot he propelled a lower wheel, and the upper wheel of course turned, as the lower wheel was turned by the foot, the upper wheel turned. And on this upper wheel was the clay. And as it turned, the potter shaped it according to his wishes. The wheel turning, the potter molding, at last the vessel takes shape. But as Jeremiah watches, the clay is marred, the vessel is marred in the hands of the potter. It isn't finished yet, something happened, perhaps there is some rough grit in the clay or whatever the reason. That vessel is marred, but the potter doesn't throw it all away, he gets rid of whatever is making the problem, and he molds it again, another vessel. And oh I like that expression, as it seemed good to the potter to make it.

Moffit translates this part of the Scripture, till he was satisfied. Oh I think that is wonderful. He remolded it to please Himself, till He was satisfied. How long will Jesus work with His church? How long? Till He is satisfied. How long will He work with you? Till He is satisfied. Oh I am glad that He is not going to stop His work until it is finished, aren't you? There is a great deal of difference in stopping work and finishing work. When the Lord made this world in the beginning, He did something on the first day, and the second day, and the third day, and the fourth day, and the fifth day, and the sixth day, and then it says, He finished His work. He looked it all over, and He said, "it is" what? "Very good", and we are keeping the Sabbath, as it comes to us now in a few moments, with the setting of the sun. We are keeping this Sabbath, the same Sabbath that Jesus and His Father kept at creation. We are keeping that Sabbath, as a token of our belief in and faith in the creative power of God, that He can finish what He starts. Aren't you glad? And oh I love the spiritual application of that. It is found, you remember, in that oft repeated, never too often, text.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6.

That is Philippians 1:6, reading the margin it says, "finish it" instead of "perform it." But now notice, this is all in this illustration of the potter and the clay. When the vessel was marred, the potter didn't say, "Oh well, after all, I have put in a certain amount of time and work on this, let it go, let it go on in to be dried and fired, and of course, it isn't as good as I thought it was going to be, it isn't as good as I wish it were but then..." No, no, he didn't do that. He made it again, another vessel, till he was satisfied. And friends, when God is satisfied, if I may use the expression that is so often used, the expression that is so often used today, "it's ok", "it's ok." When God is satisfied, it will be "ok" through all eternity. Even the Devil won't be able to find a flaw. And when Jesus takes His children with Him on those countless tours through the universe, on those space trips from world to world, as we visit with the inhabitants of the shining worlds on high, He will never be embarrassed by the conduct of His children.

You parents know what I mean, don't you? Yes. We are in the training period here. Won't it be wonderful to know, that nothing we will do, will ever embarrass Him? And we won't be worried about it either. We won't be on attention. You know some people, if they were to be presented at court this week, they would be on attention all the time before, and when they were there, wouldn't they? But you and I are going to be presented at the courts of the King of the universe, and there won't be a worried soul in the lot. There will be no anxiety, no perplexity, we will all feel perfectly at home. We will be doing right, but we will be doing what we love to do. You see this thing of shaping character, for that is what God is talking about here. This work of shaping character is something that God and man must cooperate in, and I repeat, when it gets done, it will be finished. Let's state it in another way, when God accomplishes His work in the human soul, we shall never all through eternity want to do the wrong thing, nor lack in motivation to do the right thing. We shall always please Him. And in pleasing Him, we shall find our own highest joy. Ah says one, "I wish I could go there right now then." Oh yes, but a space trip won't make

that change in us. The pottery is not up there, it is here. The wheel that rolls us round, and round, and round, and round, and round, and round, are right here in this world. All the shaping of our characters that will ever be done, is done right here on this earth. Any changes that need to be made, Jesus is the business of changing now. And Jesus says, to you and me, as He said to His people back there in the days of Jeremiah.

“O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter?  
saith the Lord...” Jeremiah 18:6.

Won't you let Me shape you the way this potter is shaping the clay? Won't you let Me mold you, shape you, form you, in harmony with the beautiful plan that I have? And now, may I tell you friends, a very strange thing, a very strange thing. If I were to ask right now, how many want the Lord to do just what we have been reading about, I fancy that every hand, or at least nearly every hand, would go up, just like that. And yet, do you know, when it comes down to the actual work of shaping, molding, forming the life, God has a hard time to get anybody that will let Him finish what He started. I say, that is a strange thing, isn't it? Oh most of us want to be saved from the grosser sins. I doubt anybody here is just itching to rob a bank, and certainly nobody wants to commit murder. Probably not very many here, are just clenching their fists and waiting, till they can get outside the chapel tonight and hit somebody. No. No, those are not our problems today. The problems are more subtle. Many of these problems are a matter of degree. Let's turn over to Romans the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, and perhaps we will get a clearer picture of what God is talking about. Romans the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning with the first verse.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:1-2.

Yield your bodies, yield yourselves to be changed, transformed, molded, by God, in harmony with His will. And notice that second verse, first line, it says, “and be not” what? “Conformed” to what? “This world”, but be transformed. Moffat translates that, “don't let the world squeeze you into it's mold.” I mean, Phillips translates that. “Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold.” Is the world squeezing people into its mold today? By the millions, my friends. We all nod our heads and say, “yes that is going on.” “It is not affecting me”, is it? No, not affecting me! It is not affecting me at all! And may I say, friends, don't fool yourself. If you are listening to what the world is listening to, you are being molded. If you are looking at what the world is looking at, you are being affected.

Someone was telling me a few days ago, about some advice he received from a good old Bible teacher. The man involved was going for what he considered necessary post graduate work, in an institute of higher learning, and this advisor of his said. “Listen, for every hour that you spend listening to those teachers, those worldly teachers in the classroom, and reading those worldly books, spend two hours

listening to God speak to you through His word and the Spirit of Prophecy.” He said, “it will take that, to keep it neutralized.” I thought that was an interesting observation. Do you know what the average time, the average American spent, looking at a little box, anywhere from this size, to this size here, day after day? Four, five, six or more hours per day. I only quote the figures I hear. How people find that much time with all the rest they are doing, I declare, I do not know. I didn’t know that there were that many hours in a day. But that is what the statisticians tell us. My point is this. That is only one of the channels through which the world is squeezing into its mold, those who look and listen. That is only one of the channels. Somebody is reading the millions of pages of magazines that come out every week and month. Somebody is reading the millions of pages of newspapers. Somebody is looking at those screens in the movie houses. Someone is listening to those hours of radio programs. And so, through TV and radio, through newspapers, magazines, and books. As well as through other channels, the world is making an impact on the human mind.

Ah but somebody says, Brother Frazee, “don’t you think there is anything good in all those?” Yes. I hasten to agree. I am reminded of a trip I took with our buyer to Chattanooga one day. He was on errands, and I had an errand, so I rode with him. In the course of the morning, I sat for a few moments, while he went in to make a purchase, down there at the markets, where the fruits and vegetable houses are. And I saw a man going over and lifting the lid off of a round can, and digging around in there, he finally came up with a banana. A nice yellow banana, and as far as I could tell from where I sat, it was a good banana. I was so glad he had found one good thing in the garbage can. And I didn’t scold him for eating out of the garbage can, would you? No, bless his heart, apparently that was where he was used to getting some of his supplies. But I will tell you one thing, I didn’t come back here and become an advertising agent, for that method of getting bananas, would you? I know of a better place, and a better way to get bananas.

Yes friends, there are good things in all these channels, and I am so glad that we have a Faith For Today program, going over the TV to the millions that watch that all the time, aren’t you? I am so glad we have a Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast, and an It Is Written broadcast, and Quiet Hour and many others, reaching the millions of listeners in radio land. God knows they need that message. But may I repeat the words we have listened to. Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold. And I tell you, if those who know this message, if every time they spend an hour listening to worldly things on the radio, or looking at worldly things on the TV. And I don’t mean just bad things, surely you wouldn’t look at a bad thing, would you? The things of this world that cater to worldly tastes and ideas. Every time we would spend an hour with that, or the newspaper, or the magazines, or any of these other channels, if we would spend two hours on our knees with God, with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, I wonder what would happen friends, I wonder what would happen?

I think of what a friend of mine said, someone wrote in his Bible. “This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.” That is it friends. My point is this, the Potter is molding the clay, but there is a competing potter that is trying to mold the clay too. And the more time we spend with the heavenly Potter, the quicker we will be molded to please Him. The more time we let the world talk to us, tell us things, show us things, the more we read what the world writes, listen to

what the world says, look at what the world produces, the longer it will take God to finish His work of molding us in the divine image. For the things of this world, friends, do not lead to God. They did not come from God, they do not lead to Him. Let's turn over to 1 John and read it. 1 John the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, you will notice in the last part of the 14<sup>th</sup> verse, he has just made an urgent appeal to young people to be strong, and let the Word of God abide in them, and thus they will overcome the wicked one. Now his challenge.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” 1 John 2:15.

John sums up everything in the world under three great heads, what are they? The lust of the flesh, that means the indulgence of appetite and passion, my friends. It means, living to please the senses. It means, gorging at the table. It means, indulging in liquor and tobacco, and tea and coffee, and rich foods, and all the other exciting indulgences that are making this world a Babylon, drunk with wine, today. That is the lust of the flesh. It includes also the indulgence of nameable and unnameable passion. All that is wrapped up in the immorality and fornication, the adultery and all the things that lead to adultery today. In this wicked godless Sodom and Gomorrah age. All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, that is number one. And what is number two? The lust of the eyes, and what is that? Oh the desire to see, to see, to see, to see, to admire. Oh I see this, I want to go see this, I want to go see that. Well, you say, “isn't it all right to see”? Sure, it is all right to eat too, it is all right to be married. All sin, my friends, is perversion. The Devil never originated a single thing, all that he could ever do, is twist what God has made. Go out here and see this rattlesnake. Listen as he makes that warning sound, watch as he strikes his fangs deep into some animal or human that he can get hold of. Did God make that? No God didn't make that. Can the Devil create it? No. How come, then? Ah my friends, look at that wicked destroying poison filled rattlesnake, and see what the Devil can do in taking the most beautiful object in the Garden of Eden, and through his process of perversion, changing it in his own image.

And that is what the Devil has done to this matter of appetite. God gave us appetite to enjoy our food, as we eat for strength and not for drunkenness. But the Devil has made gluttons of the human race. And what beefs they have made of themselves. And so the Devil has taken that beautiful wonderful institution of marriage, in which one man and one woman are to be joined together in holy matrimony, as long as they both shall live, and forsaking all others keep, themselves just each to the other. That is the holy sacred program of marriage, and the Devil has taken that and perverted it, and debased it, until today the indulgence in the sex passion is making this world like Sodom and Gomorrah, if possible, worse. As a famous evangelist said not long ago, “If the Lord does not come soon, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah for destroying them.” And do not think that these things in the indulgence of appetite, and in the indulgence of the sex passions in an immoral loose way, do not think, that these things are not having an influence on the Christian world. In many a Christian, so-called Christian college and university today, the students are demanding that all social and disciplinary matters

be handled by themselves. With the faculty and administration having nothing to do with it. And what do they mean by that? They mean, for boys and girls to come and go as they please, when they please, where they please, with no restrictions of any kind. That is the society in which we are living, my friends. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. But my friends, your danger and mine tonight is probably not to drink liquor or use tobacco. Not to indulge in the loose unbridled passions of the university campuses. Our danger friends, is in not being willing for God to take us all the way, His way, on these matters. And I speak to every soul of you from my heart.

This is the burden of my heart tonight, for I want to tell you something. Don't think that either God or Satan are going to be satisfied with half way majors, in this closing hour of human history. If you do not let Jesus take you all the way, in control of every appetite and passion of your body and your mind. If you do not let Him take you all the way in learning heaven's program, the Devil will by subtle means, drag you down slowly, and sometimes, not so slowly. Gradually but non the less certain, till eventually you will be doing the very things that today you despise, and swear that you would never do. There is no middle ground in this closing hour. In past generations there have been men and women that walked in the middle of the road, as they called it. They said, "Good Lord" with one hand on Him, and "Good devil" with one hand on him. But no longer will that be possible. We are in the harvest time, when every plant is going to seed. And as God can never be satisfied, until His people living here in this world reflect His image fully, the Devil can never be really satisfied, until looking upon the human race, he beholds his own image reflected, Satan incarnate. That is what he is going to get, my friends.

Oh believe me and it is coming soon. This world will be filled with devils. That is the meaning of the loud cry message in Revelation 18:1-4. Babylon is fallen is fallen and it has become the habitations of devils. The devils have taken over in the great religious bodies, my friends. The devils have taken over in the great universities. The devils are infiltrating in the political world, the educational world, the social world in every place. God's children must come apart from all those influences, and listen to the voice of Jesus. He is speaking through His word. He is speaking through the glorious revelations that have come to His children, in these latter days in the Spirit of Prophecy. He is speaking through His providences, by the appeals of His Spirit. You who have those volumes that we call the Testimonies to the Church, if you want something interesting, look at Volume 5, page 163. There is a little chapter on our camp meetings. The suggestion is made that before we ever go to camp meeting, I think it would be a good thing every time we are coming to any religious meeting, to follow this instruction. The suggestion is made that we should go to our closet, that means the secret place of prayer, and get down on our knees and ask God to talk with us. Pray from the soul to the inspecting eye of Jehovah. It says that if we do that, mean business, and I am quoting now.

"Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you" Volume 5, page 163, paragraph 4.

"Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you" Ibid.

Now, when we do that in the secret place of prayer, the word and the Spirit join in molding us. These are the hands of the Potter shaping the clay in conformity to His will. There as we kneel alone before God with the open Bible, God will speak to us through His word. He will speak to us through His Spirit, He will apply the word to the problems and providences of our daily lives. Young men, this is the way to find out what God wants you to do about a hundred questions. This is the way to get the victory over all impurity. This is the way to learn to control your eyes and your hands, so that you will be like Joseph instead of like Sampson. Let God mold you by His word and by His Spirit. And as you kneel there say, "O Lord you are the Potter and I am the clay, make me what you want me to be." But never pray, "but oh Lord, please do it an a way that won't make me look peculiar, I don't want to be called a square." No, don't pray that prayer, because there is no way for God to answer that prayer, it is impossible. If you want to be like the crowd, the crowd is going to hell, that is what Jesus said:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" Matthew 7:13-14.

The gate is wide, the way is broad, and many there be, that go in thereat But oh, if you want to be like Jesus, like Him you must be willing often to walk alone. When He bore that heavy cross up Calvary His disciples were way in the rear of the howling hooting mob. And not one, not Peter, nor Matthew, not James, not even John, lifted a finger to help the Master as He toiled up Calvary. Oh young men, will you be willing to walk alone, wherever you live, whether it is on this campus, or a hundred miles from here, will you be willing when you get down on your knees and ask God to speak to your soul, will you be willing to do what He tells you to do? If you do friends, you will have to set your face like Joseph did in the house of Potiphar. For there is many a temptress around today, they don't all have circles coiled around their neck. They may be beautiful, they may even be saintly in their pretense, seductive as the Devil himself. Young men, you must set your hearts that you will not be influenced by the cowl looks, the sweet glances of those who ought to know better. God help you to be true and firm in this Sodom and Gomorrah age.

And young women, I turn to you, are you going to let the world squeeze you into its mold? And that sometimes is very literal, for the world has all kinds of inventions today, to mold you and shape you. And the thing you need to settle, whenever you look at any fashion of dress or shoes or hair, is this. Who invented this fashion, where were the drawing boards on which this particular style came to be planned? Were the drawing boards in heaven or were they in hell? Did the Holy Spirit inspire this particular fashion, or did it come from another source? Somebody handed me a little poem, I think I will read it to you, not much for poetry, it has a message. I don't know who wrote it, it doesn't make any difference. The name of the poem is, Death Of Three Sisters.

The funeral bells are ringing, and the last farewell is said,  
And a requiem they are singing, for Miss Modesty is dead.  
The girl has long been ailing, and fading day by day,

And as her health was failing she cast her clothes away  
With arms all bare and chilling and bosom well exposed  
The voice of conscience stilling, to all restraint opposed.  
With weeds their vigil keeping, or worshipers of style  
Sweet Modesty lies sleeping neath fashion's rubbish pile.  
Now Innocence her sister is fading fast and sure  
And soon the world will miss her from among the good and pure.  
The third one of the trio, Miss Virtue will be gone,  
Miss Brazen Face now takes their place amid the wreckless throng.

Now what will we do about it? Will we just nod our heads and say, "well that is the way it is all right." What are we going to do about it? I want to tell you something. If we wait until the fashion experts of Sodom and Gomorrah tell us to change, we may wait in vain. I would like to ask you a question, ladies. Oh ladies, middle aged ladies, young ladies, girls, any of you that are old enough to understand what I am saying, from the children on up. I want to ask you a question. How does it come, that when the Bible was written, God saw fit to inspire two apostles in the New Testament, to give clear earnest warning about the hairstyles. You read that in 1 Timothy 2:9-10, 1 Peter 3:3-4. Why in the world did the Holy Spirit cause Paul and Peter to write down how women ought to wear their hair, how especially they should not wear their hair? How did the Holy Spirit do that?

Every now and then I hear somebody, either with a sneer or some other form of disapprobation, leave the impression that preachers shouldn't say anything about these matters. The people are hopelessly out of date, they have got crazy ideas if they say one thing. And you will watch one thing, dear friends, you will notice that in everything I am saying tonight, I am not putting my finger on a single style, from head to foot. I am not doing that for a reason. Nobody is going to walk out of this chapel tonight and say, "Brother Frazee said, what I was doing was wicked" and I don't like it. No. Anybody tells you that, the Holy Spirit will tell you that, my dear friends. I am dealing with principle, but this is my question.

How does it come that the Holy Spirit inspired two different apostles to deal with those hair fashions and dress fashions back there in the first century? Low and behold in these modern days, you and I can do with impunity, what the early Christians could not. In other words, the hairstyles back there were so wicked or so vain, or so immodest or so unnatural, or so artificial or something, that Christian women were forbidden by the Spirit of God to follow them. But down here today, down here today, when the world has become like Sodom and Gomorrah according to the Bible prophecy, down here today, the hairstyles and the dress styles are so beautiful and so natural, and so modest and so plain, and so helpful and so wonderful, in every way, that a Christian doesn't have to be peculiar at all. How come, how come, how does it happen that the Holy Spirit was so burdened two thousand years ago, but today He is not bothering anybody? Or to ask the question the other way around. How does it come that two thousand years ago, the Devil was so busy that he inspired the people that make the fashions to do things so immodest and so artificial, so unnatural, so vain so ministering to pride, that the Spirit of God had to reprove them. But today the Devil has somehow gotten good and he has arranged for the style makers in dress and hair and all the rest. He has arranged for them to present fashions, which if they are not absolutely good at least they are so

little out of the way, that no purchaser should say anything about it, and the Spirit of God keeps still and doesn't bother anybody's conscience.

Will you answer me those questions friends? Ah, that God may stir our hearts. And I repeat, don't let the world squeeze you into its mold. But now John was telling us all the things that are in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, that isn't all friends. There is one more thing, what is it? And the pride of life. The vainglory of life. My dear friends, there are plenty of people that are not bothered particularly of some of these things that I have dealt with, but their whole lives are taken up with pride and ambition. They want to be first, they want to get a lot of money, they want to keep up with the Jones and be ahead of them. They want the status symbols, they want fine cars, fine houses, fine furniture, big bank account and get it by any means they can. They want to live for this world, and they want to be considered great. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold. Remember friends, God has one mold the mold that reflects the image of Jesus Christ. The Devil has many different molds, he will make some people drunkards, but not everybody. He will make some people like the people in Sodom, but not everybody. He will make some people like that rich man that Jesus told about. That faired sumptuously every day. He wasn't any drunkard, but he paid no attention to that poor beggar who was at his door. He will make some people like Julius Caesar, or Alexander the Great, or Napoleon, that will just absorb every energy of their lives in the desire to be first and to beat, either on the battlefield or the football field. Either in the political arena or maybe in the church, to be first, first, first. It was Julius Caesar who said, "I 'd rather be first in a village than the second in Rome." He could book no superior no equal, he must be first, he must be first.

He took the sword, he perished by the sword. My friends, what mold is the world trying to squeeze you into? It makes no difference what approach the enemy makes. If you respond you will receive that shape, but oh all the while the heavenly Potter, the One who gave His life that men might be changed and transformed, all the while, He is standing by and saying, oh house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? Will you not let Me change your life? Will you not let Me take you out of the rat race, of money making, or the rat race of fashion? Or the rat race of worldly education, or the rat race of position and fame? Won't you let me give you peace, instead of perplexity. Won't you give me joy of becoming like Myself, instead of like the world? Ah friends, when we think of the price that He has paid to make it possible, surely He must love us a great deal. Wouldn't you like to be like Him?

A little while ago I said, "if I was to ask for a show of hands, I suppose every hand would go up." Do you want to be like Jesus? Do we friends? Do we really want to be like Jesus? Did Jesus and the world walk together? Are they going to the same destination? Are they traveling the same road? Do you see friends, whichever one we go with, we will eventually break company with the other. Do you see that? Can two walk together except they be agreed? My plea tonight is to every soul here, friend. To let Jesus finish His work. That means to no longer say, (oh watch this point) the thing that has been burdening my heart this week, as I have been thinking of this meeting, is that you and I will not say to God, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." You can change me, but only up to a certain point. You know there are some changes some people are supposed to make before they are baptized. But that isn't the end of the Christian life, that is the beginning. Oh I wish

every Christian would make as much progress the first ten years after he is baptized, as he did the ten weeks before he was baptized. If we would make as much progress that ten years afterwards, as we did the ten weeks before, many of us would be a lot closer to the kingdom than we are. Some people actually backslide, and they are farther from God years after their baptisms, than when they went down in the water. But ah friends, just as a baby is supposed to grow and grow and be bigger at a year old, and still bigger at two years, and still more and stronger at three years, so a Christian should be growing up into his Father's image every day, from his baptism on. What do you say friends, do you believe that?

Alright, ask God to help you to keep growing. And as I say, don't say to God, Lord you can change me, but only so far. I will be willing to give up the liquor, because I know that is bad for my liver, and I will be willing to give up the tobacco, because I might get lung cancer if I kept on with it. I will be willing to give up anything that I see is going to hurt me in a terrible way. But Lord, when it comes to some of these other things that would make me so peculiar, in the set I run with, Oh Lord, isn't there someway that You can help me find out I don't have to that! Yes, there is a way, friends, we will not turn to it but you can read about it in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12. It will tell you just how to do what you want, and still feel happy about it, but I wouldn't recommend it. That will give you the recipe. Oh my friends, Calvary is real, the price of sin is tremendous, sin is a terrible insidious deadly devilish thing, and our only hope to have our hold broken is to come to Jesus every day, and at the cross, have our hearts broken as His heart is broken. When sin hurts us as it hurt Him, you will be done with it. When we see that pride killed our best Friend, we won't want to minister to pride anymore. When we see that indulgence of selfishness, drove the nails through His hands and feet, we will say. "Lord take that all away, there is just one thing I want to live for, and that is to please my Lord." Just one thing.

The Roman soldiers shook the dice as for the stake they bide  
quite unaware that on the cross the world's redeemer died  
but in the circus of our day we thoughtless act the clown  
while God is speeding up His work to rain time's curtain down  
The Roman soldiers shook the dice as for the stake they bide  
are we as unconcerned as they that Christ for us has died?

I would like to ask you a question tonight friends. You know, I never know when I look into the eyes of a human soul, that I will ever see that person again or not. Just a few days ago, a friend was telling about an experience that a preacher had. This happened just a few months ago. This preacher was preaching the funeral service of a good sister, and as we sometimes do, he told of the influence of her life, and was thanking God for that influence. And he said to the audience, he said, "I only hope that when I am called to close my life, I can be as ready as I believe this sister was." A few minutes he finished what he had to say and sat down, and keeled over dead, right there at the funeral. He didn't know how close he was to the end, did he friends? And I don't know how close I am, and I don't know how close you are. I can tell you this my friends, if this were the last opportunity to plead with your hearts I would say, "Let Jesus mold you, listen to what He says, and quite spending so much time looking at and listening to what the world is pouring forth." I would

plead with your hearts, come every day to Calvary and let Jesus the heavenly potter make you like Himself.

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