

## **BEGINNING AGAIN**

### **Jeremiah 18:1-10**

**Introduction:** Knowing what you know now, where would you like to have a second chance? Second only to the gift of Life is a second chance. Second chances bring opportunity for correcting previous errors. Not everyone, however, wants a second chance. There is no guarantee that things would turn out differently. Yet almost everyone would like another chance at certain parts of their lives - how about you? God has offered Judah a second chance as He illustrates it in a potter and clay.

### **I. THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN OVER**

1. God has a purpose for each person.
  - As "clay," God can shape lives.
    - Moses tended sheep.
    - Gideon harvested wheat.
    - Saul plowed in a field.
  - God rebuilds upon man's failures, changing directions of action as man responds.
  - People, as Judah may not be willing to be reshaped and want to follow their own plans designed by their pride.
2. Man often responds irrationally to a second chance.
  - The failure to "grab" at a second chance is contrary to reason - think about it.
3. Another chance is often difficult to accept.
  - Repentance is needed.
  - Renewed or new commitments may be required.
  - It's better to leave things as they are, so don't make any waves, status quo...etc.

### **II. SOMETIMES ITS TOO LATE TO BEGIN OVER**

(Judah refused God's offer and was content to stay as they were, they rejected God's call.)

1. God's purposes get twisted by people.
  - Sacrifices, worship, Laws, Prophets' messages became different than when God first gave them.
2. Opportunity to begin over was offered, but refusal was final.
  - As a fine china maker remolds, remakes imperfect pieces, there comes a time when it cannot be redone again and is fit only to be broken up and discarded.
  - So there comes a time when no more opportunities or another chance is offered. As clay eventually dries out and is no longer pliable, so becomes unrepentant man.

### **III. BEGINNING AGAIN, A SECOND CHANCE**

1. Despondency, deep despair and abandonment can bring opportunity for a second chance.

2. There is a pattern that often precludes a second chance:
  - Accusing God for one's problems and/or situation.
  - Abandoning one's vocation, his/her life's work, career.
  - Accepting one's situation, predicament, stop blaming anyone.
    - Stop ignoring God.
    - Start trusting God in spite of what appears or seems to be happening.
    - Live with what one has.
  - Faithfulness to God's calling ONLY when there is no doubt, fear, despair or pessimism is no sign of strength.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. There are unlimited possibilities when God touches a person's life.
2. God can reshape marred lives and give hope.
3. Anybody willing to allow God to reshape his/her life will find victory.
4. With God all things are possible, especially a second chance.