

GOD IS IN CONTROL EVEN WHEN MY LIFE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT

VERSE OF THE MONTH

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

CONTEXT: Israel, the northern kingdom of the Jews had been defeated and virtually destroyed by the Assyrians because of their wickedness about 100 years before Jeremiah. Judah the southern Jewish kingdom was doing ok but had turned from God and taken up idolatry. Therefore, in punishment God sent the Babylonians to punish. Jerusalem the capital was destroyed by Babylon and the majority of the nation was deported to Babylon.

STARTING TEXT: Jeremiah 18:1-6 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
² "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶ He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

BAD NEWS

I. OUR CONDITION--_____

Jeremiah 18:4 ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was **MARRIED** in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

"Some imperfection in the clay causes the pot to be ruined before it is completed. The potter knows such a pot would be of no use to anyone so he pounds the still wet pot back into a shaped lump of clay and starts the process of shaping all over again." (The College Press NIV Commentary: Jeremiah-Lamentations, Timothy M. Willis, 164)

GOOD NEWS

II. OUR _____—GOD/CREATOR AND SOVEREIGN

Jeremiah 18:4 ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the **POTTER FORMED** it into another pot, shaping it **AS SEEMED BEST TO HIM**.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will

call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew^{la} you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

A. THE KILN

“In the middle of every difficulty comes opportunity.” Albert Einstein

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^{la} have been called according to his purpose.

1. SOMETIMES GOD _____ THE FIRE IN OUR LIVES

Genesis 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

2. SOMETIMES GOD _____ THE FIRE IN OUR LIVES

Jeremiah 29:11-13 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

“Men and women are limited not by the place of their birth, not by the color of their skin, but by the size of their hope.”—John Johnson

CONCLUSION:

What if you are one decision away from a totally different life?

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—