

NYMC This Week...

For centuries people have used clay to make an enormous array of useful items. Clay has been formed and fired to make plates, bowls, cups, jars, containers, jewelry, cookware, storage areas and so much more. After it is formed by the potter in the way he/she desires, the fire seals, preserves and strengthens the creation. Think you know where we're going yet?

Sometimes the items made of clay break. They may shatter with enough force. They make crack under pressure or if they are hit the wrong way. Broken and shattered left in a pile. That's how we sometimes feel as though we've been thrown away and forgotten.

May I present to you a theme we have discussed in past sermons? GOD will take those shattered and broken pieces of clay and start over. I know, I know. You think I don't understand because I haven't been there. I can recall a time in my life when I was travelling through the college experience in search of ... ? Yeah. The void was growing and I felt far from GOD. The chasm I saw opening provided less comfort to my soul than feeling helpless.

Yet I still felt and knew that my self destructive little sins were getting the best of me. GOD sent messengers and I allowed my arrogance and pride to fill the void only to see it get bigger. The more I resisted and relied on my own knowledge and perception of how others saw me in a positive light, the less real GOD was to me at that time.

Resist the devil and he will flee tumbled through my thoughts. I reacted by saying what I had to say to those messengers without even considering their feelings. My mean streak grew into a battle between me and me. I was losing every time. Softly and tenderly HE called. Arrogantly and selfishly I responded. Bigger pieces broke off and then I shattered.

If GOD truly loved me HE would just get me out of this rut I was in because that's the way it works. Right? Not a chance. My desire to force GOD into my way of thinking made me feel farther away with each second. I cried out in silence. No response. I cried out louder. No response. What's that? I thought I heard something. Anyway. I continued to cry out.

Hold on a second I know I heard something but I just can't make it out. Yeah. As I was saying... Oh no. I think I missed it. Say that again. Well, that's not what I needed to hear. What I need is for YOU GOD to listen and figure out a way for me to get out of this thing I'm in right now. I know your Word. I don't need to be reminded. How dare they tell me about the Bible. I know what it says.



SHATTERED AND BROKEN

"The days are coming, declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."

Jeremiah 33:14-16



**New Youth
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Sound familiar? What I didn't count on was GOD being GOD all the time. What I didn't compute into the equation that is me was how GOD wrote the book, bought the book, gifted it to me, wrapped in HIS Way and hand delivered it to me. My resistance was futile. I actually started thinking that if I put up my hand I could block the sun (SON).

A baby learns gradually the necessary actions to take in order to walk. As he/she grows and gets stronger, he/she crawls and then walks. A step here. A step there. Before you know it, a few steps alone. Another few steps and the baby moves a little farther away from mom and dad. Mom and dad monitor the child's progress over time. One day the child is able to decide that he/she will take enough steps away from mom and dad until he/she is far enough to "feel" alone. At this point the child may stand still and wait for mom and/or dad to play and come and get him/her. When this doesn't happen and the parents call to the child. Often times the child freezes and feels scared of being away from his/her parents.

Confidence is temporarily shattered. The parent(s) call to the child reassuring him/her that if he/she comes back, everything will be alright. The child is more concerned with his/her present state of fear than moving to safety. Even when the comforting hands of the parents come to get the child, the child still feels fear. After a while of hugs, soft caresses and quiet comforting words does the child calm down and know he/she is back in the arms of safety.

Those hands that hold and guide are sometimes hard to accept. But with time, love and strength, those arms are like a blanket, pillow and bed that give us rest, reassurance and relief. The potter's hands want to give you just that. The voice is calm. The Father is patient. The life may be broken and the confidence shattered but the Father is still the same. HE will repair you.

The same GOD who saved you is the same GOD who shelters you. Take heart and do not be afraid for HE will keep HIS promise to use you. HE will take you in HIS arms and comfort you with HIS hands. HE will speak to you. HE's speaking to you right now. Churches and pastors will fail you. GOD will never fail you.

HE will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 3:16; 31:8; Joshua 1:5; I Kings 8:57; Hebrews 13:5. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4)

GOD LOVES ... ME?

The Christian life is full of moments where we question things. The questions may be centered around world disasters or life's tragic moments. The questions might have to do with disbelief as to why we would be blessed and others not. We may even question why someone just doesn't get it. How could they not believe in Christ?

Many times when we are alone we wonder why GOD loves "me"? Have you ever asked yourself how the person you most love still loves you after all the headaches and pain you may have caused them? Or how could they not love me when I feel so strongly that this is the relationship GOD wants us to have? Guess what? These questions apply to the relationship GOD wants with us.

It is natural to feel that GOD may not love us. After all we know what we have or have not done to make the relationship grow. On the other side, we also know that GOD sees all things and at times the guilt and shame of our sin pops up and makes us think that we are not worthy enough. However, HE makes us worthy by making us righteous.

Consider the "Prodigal Son". Luke 15 tells us the Parable of the Lost Son:
 11Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "



Examine at this point the love poured out for the "lost son" who is now found. Doubt would have us believe that this son has no hope of finding forgiveness with his father ever again. Or maybe the son has to "make it up" to the family. Oh I know...the son has to make reparations to the family for hurting them.

No. GOD shows His Love for us in that while we were still sinners and separated from HIM, HE sent HIS Son to die for us. (Romans 5:8) This has no logic from the human perspective. But what IF? What if the love shown in this story is the right way to do things? What if GOD's perspective yields the correct changes and results desired in our lives?

We need to look at things differently. The foolish in the world is wise in GOD's ways. (I Corinthians 1: 18-27) GOD's love doesn't make much sense looking at it with human eyes. We need to close the physical eyes and use our eyes of faith to truly see how we are loved, not because of who we are, but because it is GOD's nature to love and share HIS love. (II Corinthians 13:5 & Hebrews 11)

Faithful people see things differently. This father saw his son. HE didn't see the grime of sin. He didn't smell the odor of the world. He didn't feel the separation from his son. He didn't think about the unholy lifestyle his son was living. He wanted to save his son from the world. As his son returned he KNEW what he HAD to do to SHOW his LOVE. Love. Love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34-35) Any more questions? Just Love HIM.

NYMC THIS WEEK...

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“NOT YO
MAMA’S
CHURCH”

WHEN WE DO STUFF..

**Every Sunday @ 1 pm – Discipleship
Every Sunday @ 2 pm – Worship Service
1st three Saturdays each month – Youth and
College Ministries**

**All the time – Prayer, Praise, Supplication
Why?**

Matthew 28: 18-20

Matthew 22: 36-40

Romans 15: 5-6

*NYMC exists to Nurture the hearts and souls
of those who seek the true GOD and Yearn
for HIS Salvation, to provide the opportunity
for the hearts and souls to Mature by getting
Involved in the family of GOD and Cry out in
praise to the one true GOD.*

**Nurture = Ministry
Yearn = Evangelism
Mature = Discipleship
Involved = Fellowship
Cry out = Worship**

PEACE

**Spanish translation available
Mensaje disponible en español**

NYMC MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS:
February:

19: Ruthie
22: Denissa

NYMC HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE MINISTRIES CALENDAR
JANUARY – APRIL 2008

JANUARY

WHO IS GOD? WHO AM I?

SESSIONS: 12TH & 19TH

We will examine:

- Who GOD really is
- Why does HE love me?
- How can I show my love/appreciation for what HE has done

FEBRUARY

GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE

SESSIONS: 9TH, 16TH & 23RD

(THE BUILDING IS IN USE ON FEBRUARY 2ND)

We will analyze:

- How GOD has expressed HIS love
- How relationships are a living model of GOD's love
- How we should glorify GOD through our relationships

MARCH

CHRIST IN PROPHECY

SESSIONS: 1ST, 8TH & 15TH

We will explore:

- The prophecies of Christ's life in the Old Testament
- Investigate how they came alive in the New Testament and our lives

APRIL

SESSIONS: 5TH, 12TH & 19TH

NEW COVENANT

We will:

- Investigate the life of the early church under the New Covenant
- Study evangelistic methods used by the early church
- Apply Biblical strategies to our evangelistic efforts

CELL GROUPS

These groups will meet with leaders on the Saturdays not listed above. These dates are: March 29th and April 26th. Each group will determine the time and location. Ladies will meet with Sandra and Ruth while the men will meet with Roberto and Steven.