



**SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD**

## **God Gives a Second Chance**

**Life Reference: Jeremiah 18:1-4**

**Focus Verse:**

**“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” (Jeremiah 18:3-4).**

Regrets. We all have them. *If only I could take it back! If I had it to do over, I would have handled it differently.*

We all stumble and fall. We fail to live up to our own expectations. Unless we learn to forgive ourselves, we will live in a state of perpetual guilt. When our words or actions affect others, we can apologize, but it is up to the person we wronged whether they value our relationship enough to overlook our offense and forgive us. Unfortunately, the mistakes we make also affect our relationship with God.



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## Life Reflection:

I have failed myself, others, and God too. Is there hope for my life now?

The story of the potter in Jeremiah reveals something important about the character of God. The potter took a piece of clay and began to shape it into a vessel. As he worked, it became apparent that the piece was ruined. Instead of discarding it, he chose to make a different vessel. (See Jeremiah 18:1-4.)

God does the same with us. The Bible tells us that God formed us from the womb and He has great plans for our lives. (See Isaiah 49:5; Jeremiah 29:11.)

In spite of God's purpose for our lives, we often choose to do what we want, forgetting to even involve Him in our choices. Sometimes the simple erosion of life leads us astray. At other times we blatantly disregard what we know is right. It only takes one or two bad decisions before we have embarked on a path we never intended to take.

## Life Reflection:

It is not easy to believe that God will take me back after I've made a mess of my life. Will He?

The fifteenth chapter of Luke tells three beautiful stories of restoration. In the first, a shepherd had one hundred sheep. One sheep went astray. The shepherd left the ninety and nine and went in search of the one lost sheep. Once he found it, he carried it back to safety. Jesus concluded the parable by saying, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need to repentance" (Luke 15:4-7).

The second story was of a woman who lost one of ten coins. She lit a candle and swept her house until it was found. Again, Jesus compared the lost coin to a lost person. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:8-10).

The final story depicts the unfailing love of God best. A man had two sons. One decided he wanted his inheritance and demanded it of his father. The father



complied. The wayward son left and spent all his money "with riotous living." Money gone and abandoned by friends, he fed pigs to survive. But the Bible says, "He came to himself" and returned to his father's house.

The story reveals the attitude of the father. While the prodigal son was a far off, his father saw him, had compassion, and ran to meet him. In spite of the boy's mistakes and disrespectful behavior, the father had not given up on him. The father fell on his son's neck, put a ring on his finger, and threw a welcome home party! (See Luke 15:11-24.)

God never gives up on people. He loves us more than we can comprehend. We may run out of time, but we will never run out of the love of God. (See Romans 8:35-39.)

- "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy ... He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:8, 10-14).

## **Life Reflection:**

How do I restore my relationship with God?

God does not play hide-and-seek with us. "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:27). All we have to do is come to Him in all honesty and sincerity, repent, and receive His forgiveness.

- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

Taking the first step is always the hardest. It is sometimes difficult for us to accept His forgiveness. But once God forgives, He forgets—our sins are blotted out—erased!



- “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

## Life Reflection:

Will God still use my life?

## Life Response:

Peter is a wonderful example of God’s mercy. Jesus had been arrested, and Peter was accused of being a follower of the Lord. Vehemently he denied any association with Christ. Yet it was just forty days later that Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost! “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16).

God did not make Peter sit on the pew for years before using him again. Once his relationship was restored, he was a vessel that God could flow through.

Regardless of our mistakes, when we return to God, He once again begins to “work all things together” for our good. (See Romans 8:28). While we will suffer the consequences of our misdeeds, God, like the potter, continues to mold us into a beautiful vessel He can use.

Your life—your ministry—your usefulness in God’s kingdom is not over. A simple prayer of repentance places the past behind you. Join with Paul in saying:

- “This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!” (Philippians 3:13-14).



## My Prayer

Lord, I am sorry for my past failures. Restore me to the relationship I once enjoyed with you, and let me press forward to the high calling that You have for me. Let Your Spirit flow through me and make me a vessel that You can use so that I can be profitable to Your kingdom.

## More Life with God References

Psalm 34:17-18; 51:16-17  
Isaiah 1:18; 38:17; 43:25  
Ezekiel 18:30-32; 34:11-16  
Micah 7:18-19  
John 10:9-11  
Acts 3:19; 17:30  
II Corinthians 7:8-10  
II Peter 3:9

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural references are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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