

Embracing the Mess

"But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8 (ESV)

I watched potters in the studio, hunched over the wheel, their earth-stained hands molding this small insignificant pile of mud into a vessel, tall with posture, form and beauty. Was this what Isaiah envisioned as he prayed to God for mercy and forgiveness on behalf of the nation of Judah? Or was it the moment, when the vessel, resisted the potter's hands, collapsed and was discarded to be used another day?

Like the potter, God has authority over our lives. He is our creator, He formed us, and, if we let Him, He molds our lives into something of beauty. For years, Judah resisted the authority of God, choosing their own way. Are there times we resist God's hand in our lives?

Like clay, our lives are messy and church is messy, but God is not afraid of our mess. He sent his Son to get his hands (and feet!) dirty by walking among us. Will we allow God to embrace our mess, use us as His vessel, be poured out to others and refilled in His presence?

Let the words of songwriter, Darlene Joyce Zschech, be your prayer today:

Take me, Mold me

Use me, Fill me

I give my life to the Potter's hands.

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