

The Clay Pot

Jeremiah 18 – 20

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

The prophet Jeremiah walked into a meeting with the priests and leaders of Judah carrying a clay pot. He threw the pot down, smashing it to pieces, and said, "This is what the Lord says: As is clay in the hand of a potter, so are you in my hand. Because you have stubbornly refused to listen to me; because you have worshipped idols of your own making; because you have sacrificed your own children to these pagan gods, you will be smashed. Your enemies will lay siege to the city until all the food is gone and you have resorted to cannibalism. You will be taken captive to Babylon. Many will die by the sword. The corpses in the streets will be eaten by wild animals. Jerusalem will lie in ruins just like this clay pot."

One of the priests who heard Jeremiah's message had the prophet beaten and put in the stocks. The next day, when Jeremiah was released, he told the priest, "This is what the Lord says: For the rest of your life you will be in terror. In terror you will see your friends killed. In terror you will watch as Jerusalem is plundered and destroyed by her enemies. In terror you will be carried off to Babylon, where you will die and be buried."

Jeremiah complained to the Lord, "My life has been filled with trouble and sorrow and shame. Everybody hates me. They plot against me. I am constantly ridiculed and threatened. You always give me prophecies of violence and destruction. If I try to hold them in, I feel like my insides are on fire – I can't do it! I wish I'd never been born."