

You Lord Are the Potter



Recently I had one of those moments when scripture came to life right in front of me. I LOVE when that happens! If you've already read Pat's article this month you know that we recently spent a day in Red Wing, MN. Most people are aware that Red Wing is the home of Red Wing pottery. We decided that we would take a tour of the factory. It was great. I would highly recommend it if you are ever in the area.

As we entered the work area, we saw shelved carts filled with lumps of clay. Just dark gray blobs of clay. They were pretty much useless. They were certainly incapable of becoming anything other than what they were on their own. That changed when the potter picked them up one at a time and threw them on his wheel. Then everything changed! Within moments of being in the skilled hands of the potter it became obvious that something was being formed. He gently took that lump of clay and made it into the pot that he wanted it to be. The rough pot was soon made, but this was only the beginning of the process. It was then carefully examined and very gently the imperfections were carefully removed. It went through the glazing process. Some were painted with designs. In the end every one of them was put into the kiln. We could feel the intense heat as we walked past. It wasn't until they had been through the fire that they were ready to be used. My heart and mind raced with all the spiritual applications I was seeing as we walked through and witnessed the useless lumps of clay become beautiful useful pottery. Isaiah says, *"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."* (IS 64:8)

Something I haven't mentioned yet is that one of the steps in the process was when the potter put his stamp on the bottom of the pot to identify it was made by him. Everyone will always know who made that pot because it was marked by the potter. The same thing is true with us. Ephesians 2:10 says, *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

There are lots of times when life is just hard. Sometime it is easy to lose sight of the fact that we are in the gentle hands of The Potter. This month let's pray for our husbands as they go through the difficulties of life. Here are some verses to get us started

"I pray that You, God, will help my husband to understand that Your thoughts are not his thoughts nor are his ways Your ways. That he will understand that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Your ways higher than his ways and Your thoughts higher than his thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

"I pray that my husband does not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try him, as though some strange thing happened to him. But that he will rejoice to the extent that he partakes of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, he may also be glad with exceeding joy."

1 Peter 4:12-13

"I pray that my husband will fear not, for You, God, are with him. That he will not be dismayed, for You are his God. That You will strengthen him and help him. That You will uphold him with Your righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

"I pray that while many are the afflictions of the righteous husband, You, Lord deliver him out of them all."

Psalm 34:19

I thought I would share another recipe that is great for summer picnics. I got this from my sister many years ago. It is definitely a good one!

Baked Beans

2 - 15 oz cans of pork and beans 1 tsp. ground mustard

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ketchup

Mix together and put into 1 quart casserole dish. Cut up 6 slices of uncooked bacon and put on top. Bake uncovered at 325 for 2½ hours. I almost always double this recipe. I have found that it's best to plan to leave some time out of the oven before serving. Otherwise it can be a bit juicier than you may want.

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