**JARS OF CLAY** 2021-08-22

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:7(NLTSE)** We now have ***this light*** shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

* Today we’re going to celebrate our weakness as humans so that we can remember how desperately we need Jesus
* *This light* is this ministry, this new way, mentioned in 2 Corinthians 4:1. It’s the power of the word of God, which when lived out, can literally change people’s lives.
* God has chosen to place this treasure in us

**GENESIS 2:7(NLTSE)** Then the Lord God formed the man from the ***dust of the ground***. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person

**PSALM 103:14(NLTSE)** For He knows how weak we are, He remembers we are only dust

* Even though we’re created by the living God, let’s not forget that we’re made from dust.

**ROMANS 12:3(NLTSE)** Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: ***Don’t think you are better than you really are***. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

**LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23(NLTSE)** “The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh ***each morning***”

* May we never forget that we need***daily*** guidance and grace from the Holy Spirit

**PSALM 39:5(NLTSE)** You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you, ***at best, each of us is but a breath***

* Realising how short life really is, let’s endeavour to make our lives count and use our time wisely

**EPHESIANS 5:16(NLTSE)** Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days

**GENESIS 1:26(NLTSE)** Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will ***reign*** over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

* The fact that God chose us to reign over the work of His hands, shows how much value He places on us, even though, we’re made of dust

**ISAIAH 64:6(NLTSE)** We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

* God’s mercy provides a way

**1 JOHN 1:9(NLTSE)** But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness

**PROVERBS 3:5-8(NLTSE)** 5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. 7 Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.”

* Only God can really take care of such delicate creatures made of dust and yet use us to reign over the work of His hands.

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Can you think of anything of value, that’s made from dust? What is it?
2. What does the fact that God chose man to reign over creation, say about His heart towards us?
3. Remind yourself that you’re made from dust, but God still chooses you, to build His Kingdom