

The figurative bowl

Becoming God's vessels for honorable use

Figurative bowls

- Bowls/vessels are tools for holding something that needs to be poured out only at a specific place and time.
- *But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand. (Is 64:8)*

- As the Spirit used Philip to speak to the Ethiopian in Acts 8, the Spirit can use our flesh as a vessel to do its work ... but a vessel's function is determined by what you put in it.

Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared

**beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called,
not from among Jews only, but also from among
Gentiles.**

**Rom 9:21-24
vessel**

•Case study:

**Becoming
God's**

Satan

God

Saul of Tarsus, Pharisee &
major persecutor of the
early church

• *But the Lord said to him,
“Go, for he is a chosen
instrument of Mine, to bear
My name before the Gentiles
9:15)*

sons of Israel; (Acts

If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh,

and kings and the

Saul Paul ① Emptied

② Cleansed

③ Refilled

God's vessel

Satan's vessel

I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.

Phil 3:4-8

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (Jn 15:3)

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one

another from the heart. (1 Pt 1:22)

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with

those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2

Tm 2:20-22

**For I would have you know,
brethren, that the gospel which
was preached by me is not
according to man. For I
neither received it from man, nor**

**was I taught it, but I received it
through a **revelation** of Jesus**

Christ. Gal 1:11-12

**Two kinds of bowls at the 1st
coming**

Jer 48:11-12

Judgment

Jer 6:10-11 Mt 23:24-25

God Satan Discernment

Jesus Pharisees *To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may*

Wrath

Revealed word

“Moab has been at ease since his youth; he has also hear? Behold, their ears are closed and they cannot been

undisturbed, like wine on its dregs, and he has listen. Behold, the word of the Lord has become a not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he reproach to them; they have no delight in



it. But I am gone into exile. Therefore he retains his flavor, and his aroma has not changed. Therefore behold, the days full of the wrath of the Lord; I

am weary with holding it in. “Pour it out on the children in the street and on the are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will send to gathering of young men together; for both husband him those who tip vessels, and they will tip him over, and wife shall be taken, the aged and the very old. and they will empty his vessels and shatter his jars.” (Jer 6:10-11) (Jer 48:11-12)

Jewish Believers Satan's bowls

God's bowl

You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish,

**but inside they are full of robbery
and self-indulgence.**

Mt 23:24-25

**Two kinds of bowls at the 1st
coming**

Jer 48:11-12

Judgment

Jer 6:10-11 Mt 23:24-25
Discernment

God

Satan

Jesus Pharisees

Cleanse & Fill

Dirty, oppose

Wrath

Revealed word

KoH Hell

Repent &
empty

God's bowls

God's word



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Satan's

Satan's bowls

**Then one of the four
living creatures gave
to the seven angels
seven golden bowls**

**full of the wrath of
God, who lives
forever and ever.**

(Rv 15:7)

**Two kinds of bowls at the 2nd
coming**

Wrath

Revealed word

Angels

16 Cleanse & Fill

Discernment

Rv 15:7, Rv

Satan

Judgment

Dirty, oppose

KoH Hell

God's bowls



God's word

Repent &
empty

Christian
Believers

Satan's

lies
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Satan's bowls

**You blind guides, who strain out a
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**you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! For you clean the
outside of the cup and of the dish,
but inside they are full of robbery
and self-indulgence.**

Mt 23:24-25

**But God has chosen the foolish things of
the world to shame the wise, and God has**

**chosen the weak things of the world to
shame the things which are strong, and
the base things of the world and the
despised God has chosen, the things that
are not, so that He may nullify the things
that are, so that no man may boast before
God.**

1 Cor 1:27-29

Summary and conclusion

- Bowls/vessels are tools for holding something that needs to be poured out only at a specific time and place, but a vessel's function is determined by what you put in it.
- God wants us to become vessels He can use for the honorable task of sharing His word with others, but we need to be ① emptied, ② cleansed, and ③ re-filled first.
- At both the 1st and 2nd comings, God uses bowls of wrath to pour our words of judgment or discernment so that His people will discern truth from lies regarding the prophecies and their fulfillment, repent, and be cleansed in both word and deed.

Let's pray   