



**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Jars of Clay**  
June 30, 2024

**2 Corinthians 4:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup>So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

<sup>13</sup>It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. <sup>15</sup>All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

1. Give some different reactions that people might have to being compared to a jar of clay.
2. Why does God entrust the treasure of his gospel to "jars of clay" rather than "safes of steel"?

3. There may be times where suffering has us feeling not only hard pressed, but also crushed, not only perplexed, but also in despair, both persecuted and abandoned, both struck down and destroyed. What promises will you remember in order to remind yourself that you are not crushed, in despair, abandoned, or destroyed?
  
4. How does carrying around the death of Jesus and constantly being given over to death reveal the life of Jesus in our mortal bodies?
  
5. Over and over, God teaches us in the Bible that is he pleased to work through the small, lowly, and weak things of this world, like jars of clay. How do God's ways compare with our thinking and the thinking of the world about how things should be done?
  
6. Can you think of a time when your weakness, vulnerability, or frailty provided an opportunity for you to witness about Jesus?
  
7. "Since we have the same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak. The difficulty of speaking about our faith is an obstacle that we have to work at overcoming. What are some things we can do to make ourselves more active about it?"