

Flawed, But Fruitful

A house servant had two large pots. One hung on each end of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. The other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

For two years, the servant delivered each day only 1½ pots full of water to his master's house. The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, but the poor, cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable over accomplishing only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked pot spoke to the servant one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"What are you ashamed of?" asked the bearer.

"For these past two years, I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you don't get full value from your work."

The servant replied, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." As they went up the hill, the cracked pot marveled at the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path.

When they reached the house, the servant said to the pot, "Did you notice the flowers grew only on your side of the path, not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table."

The story of the cracked pot is a valuable lesson about life. Each of us, you see, has flaws.

But if we allow it, and seek God's will for us, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table.

--Beecher Hunter