



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 2

This summer we are experiencing the teachings and benefits of the songs of our faith. They teach us a whole range of truths about the God we worship. This week, we heard the story behind the old hymn, Have Thine Own Way Lord. May this song become your prayer this week.

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngmand  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: JEREMIAH 18.1-8

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:<sup>2</sup> “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.”<sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel.<sup>4</sup> But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me. <sup>6</sup> He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup> If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed,<sup>8</sup> and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.*

- “Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting yielded and still!” These words from the hymn Have Thine Own Way clearly reflect the words of God to Jeremiah. Here, God is speaking through the prophet in order to reach the entire nation of Israel. Our God can shape the make-up and direction of an entire nation, forming and reforming it into God’s best design. What if God can still do that same thing today? Could followers of Jesus be used by God to shape the heart of nations around the world? When we as individuals are like clay in the hands of the potter, we can be made new. We can be made to reflect the best that God has for us. **When have you felt broken**

**or misshapen? What holds you back from complete surrender to the work of God (our Potter)?**

- *God, I am Yours. Mold me and make me after Your will. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: PSALM 37:1-4**

*Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.*

<sup>3</sup> *Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*

<sup>4</sup> *Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

- Psalm 37 invites us to trust and to do, and to dwell and to enjoy. Instead of fretting and being controlled by envy, we can find delight in the God who will give us the desires of our hearts when we put complete trust in Him. Trust and surrender may seem like an invitation to passivity (“Let go and let God”), but it is coupled with doing good. Trust and do good. If you were to estimate from your daily life—**what percentage of your time is spent fretting because of those who do evil?** It can seem like the evil-doers are going to live forever and consume the headlines until the end of time. But God gives us perspective in Psalm 37. The evil doers are like grass that will wither away. Instead of focusing on them, focus on the goodness of God!
- *God, I repent of my fixation on those who do evil. Sometimes it makes me feel better about myself when I focus on the wrongs of others. Today I put my trust in You and focus on delighting in who You are. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: PSALM 139:23-24**

*Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

<sup>24</sup> *See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

- “*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!*” The title line from our hymn this week is actually an invitation for God to come and do some investigative work in our hearts. It’s not that God doesn’t already know our heart, it’s that we are changed through the process of invitation. **What is God going to find when God searches your heart—when God knows your anxious thoughts? What can you learn about yourself as you consider the process of the search?** At our core, we are most likely aware of the offensive way in us that God will find. When we give that over to God, God leads us into a new way of being—a way that is everlasting. Glory to God!
- *God, my life is yours. Help me to surrender it to you today and everyday. Amen.*

## **THURSDAY: ISAIAH 1:18-20**

*“Come now, let us settle the matter,”  
says the Lord.*

*“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,*

*they shall be like wool.*

<sup>19</sup> *If you are willing and obedient,  
you will eat the good things of the land;*

<sup>20</sup> *but if you resist and rebel,  
you will be devoured by the sword.”*

*For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

- *“Whiter than snow Lord wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.”* If we are willing and obedient to God’s desire for our lives—if we are humble, then we will experience the grace and forgiveness of our sins. This is what it means when God says, “Come let us reason it out...” Our sins that seem to taint us beyond repair, can be washed as white as snow. **How do you respond to the imagery of scarlet sins being made white as snow? Are there things within you that make it difficult to accept this promise?**
- *Jesus, your sacrifice of body and blood on the cross make a way for my forgiveness and cleansing. Thank you for showing me the way to life. Amen.*

## **FRIDAY: MARK 1.40-42**

*A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”*

<sup>41</sup> *Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”*<sup>42</sup>  
*Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.*

- *“Touch me and heal me.”* There are several examples in the Gospels of people valuing touch from Jesus as the way to healing. When telling God to have His own way with your life, you can still cry out for healing in the midst of suffering. Jesus showed a desire to make the unclean clean, and often that required a touch of healing. **What is your cry out to Jesus today? What kind of healing and cleansing do you request from him?**
- *Jesus Christ, bring healing to my brokenness and cleanse me of my sin. My trust is in you. Amen.*

## **SATURDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17**

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

- The hymn this week carried with it a reminder of our place before the Almighty God. God is the potter and we are the clay. Let that message dwell among you and teach you about who God is, and how God desires to impact your life. **What other songs are informing your daily life right now? What are they teaching you?**
- *Rule in my heart today, oh God. Teach me through your Word and teach me through the words of your church. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read through (or listen to) the words of the hymn [Have Thine Own Way Lord](#)

*Have Thine own way Lord  
Have Thine own way  
Thou art the potter I am the clay  
Mold me and make me after Thy will  
While I am waiting yielded and still*

*Have Thine own way Lord  
Have Thine own way  
Search me and try me Master today  
Whiter than snow Lord wash me just now  
As in Thy presence humbly I bow*

*Have Thine own way Lord  
Have Thine own way  
Hold over my being absolute sway  
Filled with Thy spirit till all can see  
Christ only always living in me*

- What are the core teachings of this hymn?
- What does it tell us about ourselves?
- What does it tell us about God?
- Underline a phrase that particularly stands out to you today. How can you carry it with you as the song of your heart in the days to come?