

WHO WILL BE THE CHOSEN VESSEL?

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.
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Intent of the Poem:

- ✓ *God chooses what and whom he wants.*
- ✓ *God's chooses what the world despises to confound the wisdom of the world*
- ✓ *God's call to the faith is a gift, not merited*
- ✓ *Listen to God's call with humility and trust.*
- ✓ *Feel loved, called and wanted by God.*

The Poem

The Master was searching for a vessel to use,
Before him there were many,
Which one would be choose?

“Take Me,” cried the **golden** one,
“I am shiny and bright,
“I’m of great value and I do things just right”
“My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,”
“And for someone like you, Master”
“Gold would be best!”

The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a **silver** urn narrow and tall,

“I’ll be on your table whenever you dine”
“My lines are so grateful”.
“My carvings so true”,
“And silver will always compliment you”.

Unheeding, the Master passed on to **the brass**,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.

“Here! Here! Cried the vessel; I know I will do”
“Place me on the table for all men to view”.
“Look at me” called the goblet of crystal so clear,
“My transparency shows my contents so dear”.
“Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride”.
“And I’m sure I’ll be happy in your house to abide”.

The Master came next to a vessel of **wood**,
Polished and carved, it solidly stood,

“You may use me, dear Master” the wooden bowl said,
“But I’d rather you use me for fruit, not for bread”.

Then, the Master looked down and saw a vessel of **clay**,
Empty and broken it helplessly lay,
No hope had the vessel,
That the Master might choose,
To cleanse and make whole, to fill, and to use.

“Ah! This is the vessel I’ve been hoping to find”,
“I’ll mend it and use it, and make it all mine”
“I need not the vessel with pride of itself”
“Nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf”.
“Nor one that is big mouthed and shallow and loud
“Nor one that displays his contents so proud”,
“Not the one that thinks he can do all things just right”,
“But this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might”

Then, gently he lifted the vessel of clay, Mended and cleansed it,
and filled it that day, Spoke to it, kindly –

“There is work you must do –“
“Just pour out to others, as I pour into you”.

B. V. Cornwall.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER.

- God chooses whomever he wants.
- God does not need us, but he wants us.
- God’s choice for us is always a gift. We cannot deserve it.
- God’s way of choosing is not ours. We choose by appearances, He chooses looking at the heart.
- God’s value system is not ours. It’s unfathomable and inscrutable.
- For his greatest work the Redemption and Salvation of mankind he chooses what seems the least suitable means: Namely:
 - ✓ A country: Palestine.
 - ✓ A town: Bethlehem.
 - ✓ A place: a stable.
 - ✓ As a mother, a young illiterate village girl.
 - ✓ As a caring father: a simple village carpenter.
 - ✓ As helpers: ordinary, uncultured fisher folks.
 - ✓ As a language: a local and unknown dialect” Aramaic”.
 - ✓ As means, destitution, honesty, sacrifice,
 - ✓ As an instrument or weapon of victory: a jibbed, a cross
 - ✓ As signs of royalty, a crown of thorns and a red rag as a mantel.
 - ✓ As a program or manifesto for action, **The Beatitudes**. Poverty, humility, meekness, forgiveness, persecution, suffering, purity, justice, forgiveness and charity!

Read and comment the Chapter one of the I Corinthians .verses 18 to 31

“For what seems to be God’s foolishness is wiser than men’s wisdom. And what seems to be God’s weakness is stronger than men’s strength”