

The Vessel

What have you been learning from God lately? **And more importantly, who are you sharing it with?**

Many of the **blessings** God gives us are meant to be shared. This isn't always an easy thing, is it? We often don't feel accomplished enough or smart enough. We think others are so much more worthy and could do a better job. That was my viewpoint – until one Sunday in church a few years ago.

A visiting pastor from our sister church in Africa addressed our congregation directly:

“Do you understand the value of the teaching that you receive every Sunday?” he asked us. “Those of you who hear these teachings every week have more training and learning than the average pastor does in my city. What are you doing with what you know?” he challenged us. “Who are you teaching?”

I no longer felt that I could use the “not knowledgeable enough” excuse I'd been hiding behind and decided to earnestly pray about where and how God wanted to use me. I found out that what God wants us to know is that we may not be perfectly ready for what He's calling us to, but *He is!* As the saying goes, we should show up “prepared and prayed up” and then let God work.

I know it's not easy to get past our insecurities. I wrote this poem to remind myself that God's not looking for perfection; He's looking for obedience and willingness.

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by Jane VanOsdol

I offer you my life, Lord.
As flawed as it is.
As cowardly as I am.
You, who makes beauty out of ashes
and joy out of mourning,
Who breathes life into dead, dry bones,
What will you do with me?

I am the clay in your hands,
the hands of the Potter.
Fashion me into a vessel
that although imperfect on this earth,
is more than adequate for daily use
when you fill me to overflowing
with your Spirit.

You entrust this cracked, chipped vessel
with pouring forth Your Living Water to any parched soul who
will drink of it: healing the hurting, planting a seed,
setting a captive free.

Creating extraordinary out of ordinary.