



It took me quite a long time to realize that God only uses imperfect, broken people. Maybe it was me trying to find an excuse for not serving but I had this habit of comparing myself to other Christians who I respected and did not see myself in the same light as them. But I remember hearing a preacher saying that if God only used perfect people, nothing would get done because perfect people don't exist! Okay, that makes sense, right? I could no longer hide behind the thought that I was not good enough. The thing that I came to discover was that if you're willing to be used by God, He will use you. No matter what you've done in the past, your mission hasn't changed. There really is no opt out clause when you call yourself a follower of Jesus. Let me give you an example of what I mean. Take Jonah, who was just an ordinary everyday guy who didn't want to do what God told him to do. Yet God gave him another chance, and he eventually did what he'd been called to do. Look, even as he obeyed God, Jonah carried out his assignment with a terribly bad attitude and God still used him. Figure that! God gave Jonah a seven-word sermon: "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" Jonah 3:4. That simple message led to

one of the largest spiritual revivals in history. A huge city humbly turned to God. It's really a bigger miracle than getting Jonah out of the belly of a big fish that we all know so well. That's how big and powerful our God is when He could use this imperfect, reluctant prophet to lead an incredible revival. I love the fact that God was patient with Jonah and never gave up on him. God never gave up on me and He won't give up on you either. The Bible says, "The Lord . . . is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent" 2 Peter 3:9. The way I have tried to live my life is that if I wake up tomorrow morning, it will mean

God is giving me one more day and another opportunity to fulfill my mission for Him here on earth. Just think what your day would look like if you started off by asking God what He wanted you to do that day. Imagine we asked God to make clear every opportunity that crossed our path to share Jesus with others.

Don't be like me and make excuses and feel you haven't got what it takes to serve God. I can tell you but better still God tells you that you have got this. Throughout my Christian journey I can testify to the fact that God will never put us in a place or situation that we can't handle. Remember, with God all things are possible. So why the doubt? Our doubt can be a barrier for us not fulfilling the potential God sees in us. My friends, if you expect God to use you, He will. We follow and serve a faithful God who gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to do great things in His name. We don't go it alone, Jesus goes with us. If only we could believe in Him as much as He believes in us. Never forget that faith can move mountains. I sit here today writing this Word on the Street and I still find it hard to embrace the fact that God has taken an imperfect me and used me the way He has. I never believed that I was capable of doing what I am doing today here at First Presbyterian but He never doubted. I want to encourage you to believe in yourself the same way God believes in you. Remember that He chose you.

