

An Imperfect Broken Offering

by Melody Mason



I will never forget the time a number of years ago, as I was preparing to lead a prayer service for a large event the next day, how the Holy Spirit convicted me of something specific in my life that I needed to make right with God. Overwhelmed, I sank to my knees on the floor that night as I prayed, “Oh Lord, please forgive me...”

However, while I confessed my sin to God, certain steps were necessary to make proper amends. But I couldn’t take these steps immediately, so I wasn’t sure what to do. Should I still go forward with my prayer ministry responsibilities or should I get someone else to fill in for me until I had made things right?

As a respected leader in ministry, it was very humiliating to think of admitting to others that I had failed God in a

specific area. I didn’t want to make a stir and appear spiritually weak to my teammates, or to the many strangers in attendance at the meetings. So, with a heavy heart and tears in my eyes, I went to sleep that night, determined that I would just ask someone else to lead the prayer service the next day.

However, the next morning as I set out to find someone to take my place, God stopped me in my tracks as the Holy Spirit began speaking to my heart. “Melody, you need to lead the prayer service this morning. Don’t get someone to replace you!”

“Wait God...You can’t mean this!” I said as fresh tears came to my eyes. But the Holy Spirit continued to speak to my heart.

“Yes, I want you to lead, however, you are not to lead it as the person you want everyone to think you are. Don’t you see? I’m not looking for people to lead who cover up their sins and go on as if everything is okay. I’m looking for *yielded broken vessels*; vessels that will humble themselves to such a degree that pride is gone. Only then can I really use them for my glory. I know this hurts, but you need to share with the congregation what I convicted you of last night. Be honest about how you’ve failed Me! Then invite them to come *with you* to the cross to put away all sin and compromise. You see, if people wait to come until they have everything in order, they will never come.”

Again, I began to protest. “I can’t do this, Lord! What will everyone think when they see how I’ve failed you?”

The Holy Spirit spoke softly to my heart as He turned my eyes toward heaven. “It doesn’t matter what they think. This is not about protecting your reputation. This is about bringing glory to God. But, if He is to work, you must humble yourself.”

Oh, how I did *not* want to obey the Holy Spirit’s promptings that morning. If I could have run away like Jonah, or crawled in a cave, I would have done so immediately. But I knew what I must do. I had to obey.

Shaking and with tears in my eyes, I went before hundreds of people that morning and shared what the Lord had laid on my heart. You could have heard a pin drop in the room as everyone listened. “Jesus tells us to come as we are,” I said softly, as I continued to wipe tears away from my eyes. “So, I’m coming as I am and I’m inviting you to join me at the foot of the cross.”

At this invitation everyone got out of their chairs and came forward to the front of the room. There was soft weeping here and there as different people asked God’s forgiveness for those areas of sin and compromise that had crept into their lives. And the Holy Spirit was there. In hindsight, I think it was one of the most sweet, sacred prayer services I’ve ever experienced, for God did a deep work of cleansing among us that morning. Many hearts were broken, but how beautiful and healing the brokenness was.

In the book *Steps to Christ*, we are told:

“If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? ‘Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.’ Jeremiah 13:23. There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are” (p. 31).

Of course, making things right with God privately is what matters most, and what happens in secret between us and God is always more significant than what happens in public. But since the Holy Spirit convicted me to share, I knew I needed to be transparent and open that morning.

I will never forget one elderly gentleman who came forward after the service. He told me how he had come to the meetings with a crusty heart of skepticism and doubt but seeing me honestly share my struggles and my need of the Savior had convicted him of his own need, and, as a result, that morning he decided to give his heart to the Lord.

“I’ve never seen leaders on the platform be real before like you were today, Melody,” he told me through moist eyes. “It always seems like such a performance at religious events. But you showed me today that God is real, because I saw how He was convicting you, breaking you, and changing you. Thank you...” His voice cracked as he reached out to hug me.

Melody Mason works for the General Conference Ministerial Association and is the discipleship coordinator for the Back to the Altar revival initiative. She is author of three books: Daring to Ask for More, Daring to Living by Every Word, and most recently, My Single Joy. Melody is passionate about prayer and is also assisting with the “One Heart, One Voice” prayer initiative in preparation for OneVoice27.

ONEVOICE27

MISSION FOR ALL



We have started the 1-year countdown to OneVoice27. Each month we will be doing a Bible study to help prepare our hearts to be effective disciple-makers for the Kingdom.

September - Lesson 1 One Heart, One Voice: Prepare

October - Lesson 2 One Heart, One Voice: Examine

November - Lesson 3 One Heart, One Voice: Turn

On Sunday, November 1st, join us at 7am EST on Zoom, as Don MacLafferty and GC Prayer Ministries lead a heart preparation and prayer time based on this month's lesson.

Preparing for OneVoice27

World Church Prayer Requests

NOVEMBER 2026

- Pray that every member will embrace Christ's commission to make disciples.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to empower God's people for mission.
- Pray that hearts will be opened to experience the presence and power of God.
- Pray for willing hearts to answer God's call wherever He leads.
- Pray for each president, secretary, treasurer, and staff member at the General Conference and Division levels. Pray that they will be fully consecrated to Christ earnestly seeking His transforming power in their lives, families, and ministries.
- Pray for the Kenhut SDA Church in Kenya as they prepare for an evangelistic campaign November 8-November 21. Pray that many hearts will be touched by God's Word and that many lives will be dedicated to Christ's service.
- Pray for the Lord of the harvest to breathe success into every blueprint, project, and initiative under the One Voice banner. Pray that each of God's milestone be reached and every goal be achieved by September 2027, especially those that seem impossible by human standards.
- Pray that we would share Jesus with others through words and actions, using print and digital media. Pray that our churches would be places of welcomes and warmth as we welcome new friends and family through our doors.