

Never Got the Chance

by Neal Breeding
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Characters: Doctor, Sunday School Teacher, Preacher, Researcher
Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV), Judges 17:5 (TLB) Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)
(words in italic should be emphasized)

Doctor: I was determined from the time I was a youth in High School to make a difference. You see, my mom died when I was 13 because of cancer. I knew from that point on I didn't want any other child to have to grow up without a mom because of cancer. So I went to college, then to medical school and then I joined this research team at the National Cancer Research Foundation. It was real hard work. There were many years of disappointment and frustration, but after so many years of painstaking research, I think we have finally found a cure!
(actor freezes)

Sunday School Teacher: I have taught the 4th grade Sunday School at First Church for the last 30 years. It has been some of the best years of my life. Each year I would pray for each of the children on my Sunday School roll. I prayed God would allow me to be used, not only to teach the children about him, but to also lead some of them to Christ. Throughout each year, I was blessed as I gave part of myself to the children, and they gave me a part of themselves. God blessed my efforts and used me throughout the past 30 years to lead 64 children to him. With each salvation, it was confirmed in my life this was where my ministry was to be. (freezes)

Preacher: From the time I was seven I knew what God wanted me to do... preach. I was active in Sunday School and church throughout my childhood, my youth and the years that followed. I felt like I was a sponge, always wanting to soak in more of what God had to teach me, and then wanting to squeeze what I had learned back out and drench others with God's love that was so dear to me. After seminary I started an evangelism ministry. Showing God's love to the world was the mission of the ministry, and over the past 47 years I have lead thousands of people to Christ and shared the Word of God with not only this nation, but to nations all over the world. I saw God tear down barriers men had built, both physical and spiritual. Being allowed into Russia was one of the greatest physical barriers I saw fall during my ministry. *(pause)* I'm going to be 72 next year and some are saying I should retire; but how can I retire from something that has been a part of me since I was a little boy? So as long as I am physically able, and God allows me to, I will continue to share his love with everyone I come in contact with! *(freezes)*

Researcher: I can't believe it! I just can't believe it! We have finally found a successful treatment for almost everyone who has it! Last year more than 170,000* people were living with the disease and more than 440,000* had been diagnosed with it since its appearance. No more! There is finally a treatment that will force the disease into remission! No longer will Aids be one of the leading untreatable diseases in America! *(freezes)*

(everyone pauses before beginning the following lines)

Preacher: And God said, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;"

Researcher: to heal

Sunday School Teacher: to teach

Doctor: to cure

Preacher: to preach.

Sunday School Teacher: But like in the days when "Israel had no king, everyone did whatever he wanted to--whatever seemed right in his own eyes."

Researcher: And although "there is a way that seems right to a man, in the end it leads to death."

(everyone pauses before beginning the following lines)

Doctor: I was considered a *mistake* by my parents. They had only been married a few months when they found out I had been conceived. And since I wasn't considered *a life yet*, I never got the chance to make a difference. *(hands fall to side, head bows and actor freezes)*

Sunday School Teacher: An unwed mother decided it was too hard to try to deal with the pregnancy alone. Feeling like an outcast at church, and unloved by her family, she turned to a Federally Funded Pregnancy Crisis Center. There she was told her *non-vital tissue* could just be removed; then all of her worries would be gone. *(pause)* Because I was consider to *be non-vital tissue*, I never got the chance to make a difference. *(hands fall to side, head bows and actor freezes)*

Preacher: A couple that had been married for five years found out unexpectedly they were pregnant. Since both of them worked full time and were involved in community organizations, they didn't feel it was the *right time* to have a baby. After seeking the guidance of a *Planned Parenthood Clinic*, they decided it would be better to wait until they were more financially stable. They thought they should wait a little longer before bringing a new life into *this cold cruel world*. By waiting they would be able to *provide* better for the child because they would have *planned* on when the child was to be born. So they decided to terminate their unexpectant. *(pause)* I never got the chance to make a difference. *(hands fall to side, head bows and actor freezes)*

Researcher: At a party one night, someone had too much to drink. She put herself in a bad situation and woke up the next morning regretting what had happen. A month later, the situation got worse. On the advice of her best friend, who told her she wasn't ready for all of this responsibility, and she was just too young for this, she took a trip to an abortion clinic. She was told everything would be better in just a little while, after the *procedure* was finished. *(pause)* I never got the chance to make a difference.

(everyone pauses before beginning the following lines)

All: Consider us a life... not

Sunday School Teacher: non-vital tissue.

All: Consider us a life... not

Doctor: a mistake.

All: Consider us a life... not

Preacher: an unexpectant.

All: Consider us a life... not

Researcher: an accident.

(pause)

Teacher & Doctor: Only you can give us the *chance*,

Researcher & Preacher: to let us have a *chance*,

All: to make a difference.

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