

Saint Philip AME Church

240 Candler Rd S.E.

Atlanta, GA 30317

Rev. William D. Watley, Ph. D., Senior Pastor

Rev. Roy Jones, Jr. D.Min., Executive Minister (Presenter)

Destroy Every Stronghold & Demolish Every Yoke:

Christian Families Dealing with Financial Crisis

John 8:36 “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

Christian Families Dealing with Financial Crisis

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NRSV)

1. Now the wife of a member of the company of prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves.” **2.** Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil.” **3.** He said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few. **4.** Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside.” **5.** So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. **6.** When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There are no more.” Then the oil stopped flowing. **7.** She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest.”

- Debt is real. Many people including Christians today are in a deep financial pit or crisis. Debts have gotten out of control. People find themselves needing counseling and a financial miracle. Too often the situation is overwhelming and hopeless. For many getting out of debt or having a fresh start seems impossible.

Proverbs 22:7 (NRSV)

7. The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

- Our future is in jeopardy because of debt. Our families are affected by the decision we make or the amount of debt we have accumulated. Fear and doubt settles in and people feel so drained, they even give up on the possibility of getting out of debt and even on life. Don't be consumed by debt.

2 Kings Chapter Four enlightens us or reminds us of a widow, with two sons, who found herself in a dire predicament, with no apparent way out. With her husband gone (deceased), it was hard to make ends meet. The situation had gotten so bad that the woman tells the Prophet Elisha that “The creditor is coming to take her two sons to be his slaves.” (2 Kings 4:1).

- Many of us have lost our joy and peace because we have miss-managed our resources. The enemy will use your debt to divide, conquer and control.

John 10:10 (NRSV)

10. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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John 8:36 (NRSV)

36. “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

- We don’t have to live in financial bondage!

Let us not be like the prodigal son who wasted all his resources living without discipline and without wisdom. **(Luke 15:11-14)**

There will be a famine but with wisdom and discipline you can continue to thrive. Joseph is a good example of wisdom and discipline. **(Genesis 41)**

Foreclosures in GA

- Pre-foreclosures: 2,400
- Short Sales: 381
- Sheriff Sales: 2,136
- Foreclosures: 1,768
- Bankruptcies: 845
- Rent to Own: 133
- As-Is Deals: 436

Top 14 Cities in Georgia

- Atlanta
- Columbus
- Macon
- Augusta
- Lawrenceville
- Lithonia
- Covington
- Conyers
- Douglasville
- Decatur
- Marietta
- Stone Mountain
- McDonough

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- Savannah
- Snellville
- Jonesboro

In (2 Kings Chapter Four) the widow was drowning in debt.

Recognize the problem

- A. Too Much Debt
- B. No Money
- C. Creditors holding her responsible

Get some help

- A. She didn't qualify for a loan
- B. Her husband did not have insurance
- C. She is too ashamed to get counseling
- D. The Church did not pay his annuity
- E. WMS doesn't show up
- F. Church members are too busy
- G. She finally has the nerve to call the Bishop

God can turn it around

- A. The Man of God questions her about her need and her resources (v2a)
- B. She sadly tells him she is in a bad situation (v2b)
- C. He Challenges her to use her resources and her relationships (v3-4))
- D. She reluctantly obeys (v5-6)
- E. She reports back to the man of God (v7)
- F. God supplies her needs, and allows her to be an entrepreneur (v7)

Notice: The oil stopped pouring only when they ran out of containers. The number of jars they gathered was an indication of their faith. God's provision was as large as their faith and willingness to obey. Beware of limiting God's blessings by a lack of faith and obedience. The Lord uses a miracle through the wisdom of the prophet to bless the widow and her sons.

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A. God supplied her needs

Philippians 4:19 (NRSV)

19. And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

B. God blessed her abundantly.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NRSV)

20. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **21.** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)

1. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2.** looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.