

## “Reversing Financial Consequences”

*2 Kings 4:1-7*

### Introduction

Not heeding Biblical principles for handling our finances often creates havoc in our lives. For many, financial havoc comes in the form of unnecessary debt. While debt can be created by circumstances you cannot control, (such as health issues) often the debt that we face is a direct consequence of our disobedience to God in our finances. Debt does not just affect our bank accounts; it affects our mental state and our family dynamics. Debt is an economic form of slavery that emerges as a result of a failure to understand and accept that God has a purpose and plan for how you steward your personal finances.

In 2 Kings chapter four, the story is told of a widow that was reeling from the effects of debt in her life. Her husband, while he revered God, had died leaving her in debt that was emotionally stressful and threatened to break up her home. The widow sought out Elisha the prophet and asked for a solution to her problem, thus demonstrating that God alone was her source. The world leads us to continue accumulating debt generated by greed and a lack of contentment. Yet it's only when we choose to return to God as our source that we find a cure for financial consequences, specifically the consequence of debt.

God's principles for money have a priority – give, save, and spend. As we develop a mindset to minister to others, we will begin to see God reinvesting himself in us. Until you act on these principles you will not see God move.

### Getting Started

1. Make a list with your group of the primary reasons that people find themselves in debt. Which of those reasons have applied to you?
2. Why do you think God is concerned with the way we prioritize our money and the consequence of illegitimate debt? What could you do for God's Kingdom if illegitimate debt weren't holding you back?

### Let's Get Personal

1. How has greed and/or lack of contentment played a role in how you have spent your money? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best, how would you rate your spending in accordance with the principles you heard in this week's sermon?
2. Are you currently facing a financial crisis related to debt? What effect has that debt had on your life?
3. What principle from this week's message shed light on how you view your current debt?

### Take the Next Step

1. God's principles for money have a priority – give, save, and spend. While all of these areas are important, which of these areas will you take action this coming week?
2. God desires that we have a mindset to minister to others. In what ways can you live out that Biblical principle this week?
3. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: Malachi 3:8-12; Psalm 37:21; 50:14-15, 23; Proverbs 3:9-10; 16:3,9; 21:5,7, 20; 24:27; 22:7; 12:9; Deuteronomy 14:22; 15:6; Philippians 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:8; Luke 6:38; 16:10-11.

**Renew Your Mind**

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

*Malachi 3:10*

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