

Exodus 36:3-7

³ And they received from Moses all the contributions which the sons of Israel had brought to perform the work in the construction of the sanctuary. And they still *continued* bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. ⁴ And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, ⁵ and they said to Moses, "The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the LORD commanded *us* to perform." ⁶ So Moses issued a command, and a proclamation was circulated throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman any longer perform work for the contributions of the sanctuary." Thus the people were restrained from bringing *any more*. ⁷ For the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work, to perform it.

Of all of the negative things that have been said concerning the children of Israel who were brought out of Egypt by God, being greedy cannot be one of them. Can you imagine your pastor or church leaders telling the people in your church to stop giving; because they have more than enough for whatever it is that they are doing? More times than not, many a minister has had to beg or plead with the people in their congregation to simply remain faithful. Why is it that so many in the church have lost their desire to give unto God, and the furtherance of His kingdom? Do we believe that the church is there to give to us? We expect a phone call or visitation if we are sick, or if we miss a service. We expect full recognition for any acts of service that we should play a part in. We want to be honored for our degrees, our giftings, our talents and the time already spent in ministry whether as a layman or even as a full time minister. We're willing to give, as long as it's on our terms! If this describes you or the people in your church, then you are no different than the lost men and women outside your church walls. I am absolutely convinced that the church should never go into debt for their ministry, and especially their buildings. God has called us to be the lender and not the borrower! I am in no way speaking judgment against any church or ministry that has borrowed; but I am saying that this was never God's plan for His people. If every believer of Jesus Christ paid their tithe, and gave offerings as we are commanded in **Malachi 3**, then churches throughout America would not be facing the overwhelming debt that they're swimming in. One of the significant mistakes that many pastors have made is that they have placed business men in places of leadership in their churches; so instead of seeking God, many churches have sought the counsel of man. Could it be that we have learned to trust our own abilities, over God's ability. Truly, such action requires little if any faith. So instead of trusting God for our needs, we seek Him to give us favor with our lending institutions.

Pastors, I exhort you to return to the things of God in your ministry! Stop looking to man as your source, and look to Jehovah-Jireh as your provider. Preach and teach the unashamed truth of God's Word, and let the Lord be the one who battles for you and your church. Our calling is one that is difficult; but we were never intended to do this without Divine intervention from our Lord. I want to encourage you to lay down your burdens at the foot of the cross. You and I have been called for such a time as this, and my prayer is that you will find favor and success in all that the Lord has called you to!!