



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Josiah and Denise put God first

Josiah and Denise decided to put God first despite their fear and uncertainty about the future. That's when their transformation began. What can we learn from their story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Josiah and Denise were highly successful in business. They decided to participate in God's work by investing their savings in building a Seventh-day Adventist church. That's when things started to go wrong.

The business experienced great difficulty and they couldn't see a way forward. Despite the risk of losing everything, they put God first and continued to invest in the church building. Their friends called them crazy but that didn't deter them.

Putting God first when everything is going well is difficult enough, but to put God first when things appear to be going wrong seems impossible. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can someone be faithful in the midst of adversity and uncertainty.

Josiah and Denise often visited the construction site and spent hours there watching the people work. Even with all their fears and concerns, they would feel an inexplicable peace that reassured them that they were doing the right thing no matter the consequences.

But the situation was unsustainable. The bank had a set date to repossess their car and their home. What would they do? Where would they go? How far would God allow this to continue?

Three days before the repossessions were set to happen, God stepped in. Josiah was awarded a large contract, providing them with the resources they would need to move on.

The church building is now complete and people are worshipping there every week. Their business is booming again, and the couple's financial concerns are in the past. They continue to sponsor and help build other projects as God leads.

Ellen White wrote about this: "What if some become poor in investing their means in the work? Christ for your sakes became poor; but you are securing for yourselves eternal riches, a treasure in heaven that faileth not. Your means is far safer there than if deposited in the bank, or invested in houses and lands. It is laid up in bags that wax not old. No thief can approach it, no fire consume it" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, page 41).

Josiah and Denise put God first. Their faith inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.