



JOSEPH'S STOREHOUSE FOR GREATER COMMUNITY

A CALL TO ACTION

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It's Time to Get Our House in Order

Greater Community, I want to start by sharing a burden that has been weighing on my heart. As I look out at our congregation, I know many of you are being directly and indirectly impacted by the challenges we face today—job losses, financial burdens, health concerns, housing instability, and more. Whether it's the recent wave of federal employee layoffs, struggles with medical issues, or the uncertain political climate impacting many of us, there are so many people in our church and community who are in need.

I want to remind you of a powerful scripture that speaks to our current situation:

Matthew 7:24-29 (NIV)

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the wind blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

In times of struggle, we must ensure that our house—our lives, our families, our church—are built on the rock of Christ. When the storm of life hits, we must be prepared, not only to endure but to stand strong. But to do this, we must not only act individually; we must come together as the body of Christ.

Matthew 25:1-9, parable speaks about being PREPARED. The ten virgins in this story were waiting for the bridegroom, but only five had their lamps full of oil. Those who were prepared were able to go with the bridegroom when the time came. The others were left behind. This is a call for us to be proactive—to prepare, to fill our lamps with oil, so we are ready when the challenges of life arise.

God also reassures us in **Isaiah 41:10**:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your

God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

As we stand at this intersection, we must recognize that the church is more than just a place for spiritual nourishment; it is a **storehouse** of resources, both spiritually and naturally. The church is called to be a place of refuge for those in need—not only in times of crisis but as a proactive community that is prepared to meet needs before they arise.

The Role of the Church as a Storehouse

In **Matthew 25:35-40**, Jesus makes it clear that serving others is an essential part of our faith. He says:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

As a congregation, we are called to respond not only to spiritual needs but to the **material needs** of our members and community. The church, as God's people, is to be a **storehouse** of resources—whether that is through financial support, food, clothing, job opportunities, emotional care, or prayer. We must be proactive in equipping ourselves to meet the needs of those around us.

In **Exodus 12:13-28**, when God provided the Israelites with instructions for the Passover, He made sure that they were **prepared** to face the challenges ahead, both spiritually and practically. The blood of the lamb on the doorposts served as a protection, but they were also given specific instructions to prepare and be ready to leave Egypt. In the same way, God calls us to prepare spiritually and practically so that we are not caught off guard but are equipped for whatever comes our way.

Moving Forward: A Proactive Church

As we move into the coming weeks, we will begin to proactively prepare as the body of Christ. The church must not simply react to life's challenges; we must be proactive, equipping ourselves

spiritually, emotionally, and practically to face the difficulties ahead. This proactive approach will allow us to build a foundation of **spiritual maturity** so that when life's storms inevitably come, we are better prepared to handle them with faith, unity, and courage.

Equipping for Service: The church is designed to equip its members in advance, not only for their own benefit but so they can be a blessing to others. In **Exodus 12:13-28**, God provided the Israelites with specific instructions to prepare them for the journey ahead. As a church, we must ensure that we are equipping our members to serve, both in times of crisis and in times of peace. This means helping others develop the knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual gifts they need to stand strong in faith, serve others, and offer support in difficult times.

The church is a community of preparation, not just a place to retreat when things get tough but a place to come together and become stronger as the body of Christ.



A Call to Action

James 2:14-17 (NIV) says:

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

The church is called to respond with both **words and actions** to the needs of the congregation and the community. If someone is struggling with financial burdens, health issues, housing instability, or any other challenges, simply offering well-wishes is **insufficient**. We must be **actively** involved in meeting the material and emotional needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is a call to proactive action, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, serving others as He would.

As the Pastor of this house, I invite you to take part in this ***call to action***. Whether you are directly impacted by these challenges or in a position to help, we need your involvement.

We need your time, your resources, your skills, and your creativity. We need you to be part of this effort to stand in the gap for those who are struggling. If your business can offer support, if you have time to volunteer, or if you have a skill that can help someone in need, now is the time to step up.

Invitation

Will you take this stand with me? Will you partner with your brothers and sisters in the congregation who may be struggling silently? Today, for some, this may be their only glimpse of hope before they return to their circumstances tomorrow.

Use the QR code below to stand with your church! Whether you are in need or want to stand in the gap for others, we want to connect with you and ensure that no one is left behind.

Will you come? Will you be part of this movement to be proactive in meeting the needs of God's people?



HIS HANDS HIS FEET

Joseph's Storehouse for Greater Community

How I might be the hands and feet of Jesus

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Joseph's Storehouse for Greater Community

How I might be the hands and feet of Jesus

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.



"Bringing Kingdom To Community"