

# DEBT—A DAILY DECISION



Lesson 11 for  
March 17, 2018



We may face situations in our lives when we need to go into debt for various reasons.

There is practical advice in the Bible to confront those situations and to avoid them if possible.

↳ To avoid:

- Borrowing.
- Getting it now.

↳ To achieve:

- Being content with what we have.
- Running away from debt.
- Saving.

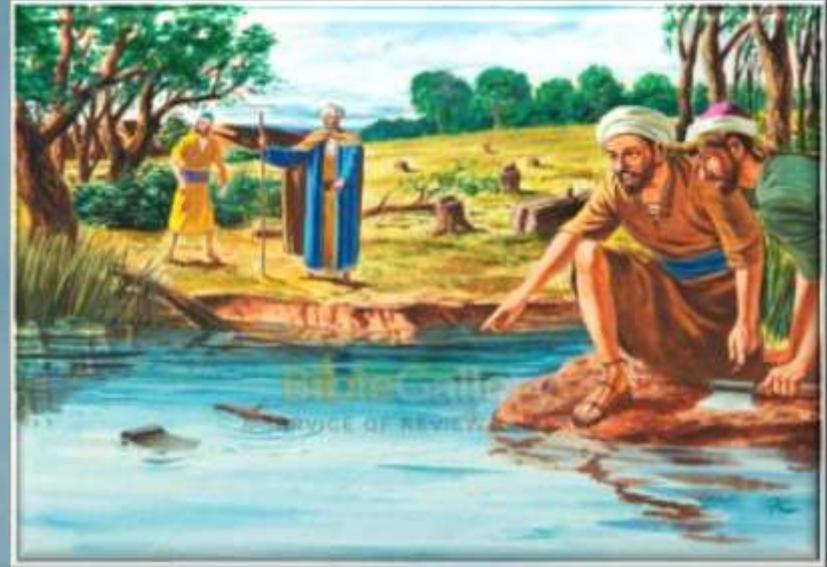
# BORROWING

The students were chopping trees to extend the school when a young man lost the head of his axe. That axe was borrowed, and he didn't have the money to buy a new one.

That story reminds us of the risk, the responsibility and the consequences in borrowing something.

The Bible says that anyone borrowing something without the intent to repay is wicked (Psalm 37:21)

*"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." (Proverbs 22:7)*



In addition, those who don't follow the Biblical principles will be in debt when borrowing something (Deuteronomy 28:44)

God accepts that we may need to go into debt occasionally (2 Kings 4:1-7). In those cases, we must return what we borrowed as soon as possible.

# GETTING IT NOW

**“Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.” (Philippians 3:19 NIV)**

**Nowadays, it’s easy to get anything you want right now by requesting a small loan.**

**Think about the danger of such behavior:**



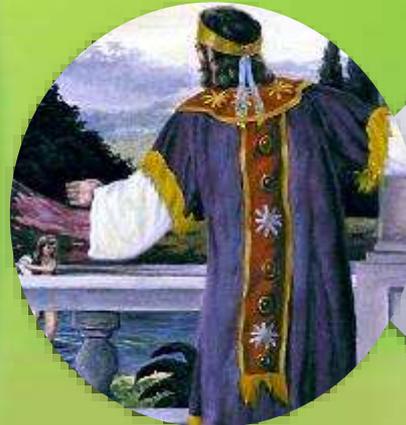
**On the other hand, Jesus—our example—didn’t give in to instant reward after fasting for 40 days. Don’t let your desires control you.**



**Eve wanted to have wisdom NOW  
(Genesis 3:6)**



**Esau wanted to eat the stew NOW  
(Genesis 25:29-34)**



**David wanted Bathsheba NOW  
(2 Samuel 11:2-4)**

# BEING CONTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE

“Well, faith does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have... if we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us.”

(1 Timothy 6:6,8 GNT)



Wise people tell God: “Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.”  
(Proverbs 30:8)

It’s very important to learn to live with the resources we have. We must adjust our expenses to our income. Our main concern must be to seek the Kingdom of Heaven and not to satisfy our needs (Matthew 6:33)

The key to live within our means is to draw up a monthly budget in order to compare our income with our expenses.

Remember: Don’t spend and don’t commit to anything if you’re not sure you are able repay it (Luke 14:27-30)





# RUNNING AWAY FROM DEBT

“One who has no sense shakes hands in pledge and puts up security for a neighbor.” (Proverbs 17:18 NIV)

Avoid going into debt or becoming guarantor for the debt of others.

Those borrowing are at the mercy of those lending (either entities or individuals)

Debt is not a sin, but it can damage our spiritual experience and have an impact on the financing of God’s work.

Debts reduce the resources we can share with others, and decrease our chances to receive God’s blessings.

**“Take care of the pennies,  
and the dollars will take care of  
themselves.”**

E.G.W. (CS, p. 257)



# SAVING

**"Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow." (Proverbs 13:11 NIV)**

**Stewards save for the family needs. They invest in Heaven as they manage God's resources (1 Timothy 5:8)**

**We should include a monthly percentage for saving in our family budget. We may need to refrain from unnecessary expenses to do so.**

**Remember the priorities of the Christians that Jesus taught (Matthew 6:33)**



**Manage wisely the 100% of the money God gives you.**

**Priority 1: Giving back to God what it's His (tithe)**

**Priority 2: Thanking our Giver (giving our offerings and helping those in need)**

**Priority 3: Meeting our necessary expenses.**

**Priority 4: Saving.**

**The surplus can be used for other expenses.**

**“Every week you should lay by in some secure place five or ten dollars not to be used up unless in case of sickness. With economy you may place something at interest. With wise management you can save something after paying your debts.**

**I have known a family receiving twenty dollars a week to spend every penny of this amount, while another family of the same size, receiving but twelve dollars a week, laid aside one or two dollars a week, managing to do this by refraining from purchasing things which seemed to be necessary but which could be dispensed with.”**

E.G.W. (Selected Messages, vol. 2, ch. 36, pg. 329)

Note: \$20 in Ellen’s time are equivalent to \$600 today.

**“Many, very many, have not so educated themselves that they can keep their expenditures within the limit of their income. They do not learn to adapt themselves to circumstances, and they borrow and borrow again and again, and become overwhelmed in debt, and consequently they become discouraged and disheartened.**

**We should be on our guard, and not allow ourselves to spend money upon that which is unnecessary, and simply for display. We should not permit ourselves to indulge tastes that lead us to pattern after the customs of the world, and rob the treasury of the Lord.”**

E.G.W. (Counsels on Stewardship, ch. 48, pg. 249)