

**I. Problem - 2 Kings 12:4-8**

1. Joash wanted to repair the house of God (**verse 4**)
  - his first deed was to take the sacred offerings to do the work
  - this made the temple a place that truly honored God
- Rea -your church (building) should be nice enough to honor God... what do you think when you see a home that has not mowed their grass in two months - you think they have had troubles or they just don't care
2. Categories of money listed
  - from personal vows
  - voluntary gifts
  - sacred offerings
  - collected in the census
- Rea -often the "census" and taxes go together - like Luke 2 when Jesus was born
3. It was to be brought to the temple
4. Receive it from the treasurers (**verse 5**)
  - an accountant or bookkeeper
- Rea -Judas was a treasurer
- Rea -discuss how often a person needs to repair his/ her own home
5. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of Joash the priests still had not made repairs (**verse 6**)
  - it had not been made a priority
- Rea -it is very common to let the building of God go uncared for
6. Joash summoned his priest (Jehoiada) and asked why the repairs had not been done (**verse 7**)
  - take no more money from the people (until the repairs were done)
- Rea -the fact that they were still taking in money makes me smell a rat
- Rea -verse 8 implies that they were lazy - they did not want to take this job on
7. If leadership does not give tasks priority people assume they are not important
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. How important is the upkeep of God's house?
  2. Often there are people within churches who could do the work themselves - why don't they?
  3. Discuss the example of the priests/ leaders
  4. Deacons are leaders in the Baptist denomination - they often do very little
    - why do you think that is?

**II. Solution - 2 Kings 12:9-12**

1. Jehoiada created an offering box (**verse 9**)
  - many would want to contribute
  - placed beside the altar
  - a designated offering
2. The priests guarded the entrance
3. The secretary counted the money and put it into bags (**verse 10**)
4. The workers were paid by another group (**verse 11**)
  - carpenters and builders

-masons and stonecutters (**verse 12**)

Rea 5. Obviously they “hired it done” -instead of having a “work day”

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The directive of Joash sounds as if they already had the money
2. Apparently Jehoiada did not want to spend that money - but came up with a designated offering - just my take. So what happened with the other money.
3. Money and leadership make strange bed-fellows - enter Judas
  - in marriage divorces conflicts over money surface again and again
  - money has a strange affect on people
4. Deacons were to not be “greedy of filthy lucre” - in leadership men ought be self-controlled

### **III. Action - 2 Kings 12:13-16**

1. **Verse 13** gives a list of temple items financed by this special offering as well

Rea -again... what about the regular money that was already there???

-this money went to pay the workers and those who bought these items for the temple

2. Pay the workers (**verse 14**)

Rea -it is only fair - what about the idea of asking church members to do things that we ought just pay for?

3. They did not require an accounting because the people worked with complete honesty (**verse 15**)

-integrity with money can further the cause of the kingdom

Rea -a lack of integrity with money can hinder (even destroy) a man’s testimony more than anything else I know

4. Sin and guilt offerings were not take to work on this project (**verse 16**)

-it belonged to the priests

Rea -what about taking the salary of the pastor and using it for repairs... would that not be wrong?

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. It has been my experience that churches DO NOT tithe - if they were to do what God commanded these “special offerings” would not be necessary
2. Often churches DO NOT pay their pastors well - the monies of the church (whatever they are) are used for church upkeep
3. My opinion (for whatever its worth) - God protects His Pastors - He will hold churches accountable for their failure to support the man of God
4. When people give (as they should) God is honored and I strongly believe that God will honor those churches
5. People who don’t give as they should are stealing from God - He will hold you accountable.
6. When you go to the parking lot and see the nice cars that people drive to church - then you look at the church budget and see there is little to do the work of God... something is not right.