**Scene 2 – In Pastor Jarrod’s Office**

*(Pastor Jarrod is in his office rifling through bills. He then stares at the picture of his dad, his predecessor)*

**Jarrod**: I don’t know dad. I can’t seem to dig us out of this hole! We are drowning. I thought I could grow the church and help us get back on our feet. But I’m failing!! I know if you were here you’d tell me I wasn’t, but these final notices say otherwise. The bank is gonna foreclose this church And I don’t know what to do. I’m preaching and teaching - trying to grow the people and the church, but it’s just not happening...I don’t know.

*(Knock at the door)*

**Jarrod**: Come in!

*(Mark enters)*

**Mark**: Hey Pastor How are you?

**Jarrod**: What’s up Mark. I’m okay and yourself?

**Mark**: I’m good, but I know that look…

**Jarrod**: What look?

**Mark:** That look you have on your face right now.

**Jarrod**: It’s cool. I’ll be fine.

**Mark**: Look Pastor everything is gonna be fine. God is gonna see us through.

**Jarrod**: I don’t know Mark.

**Mark**: About what?

**Jarrod**: Everything! This church, me Pastoring it! The ministry is not growing, the income is low and the bills are piling up. I have so many ideas to enhance the church, but the people fight me on everything!

**Mark**: Pastor they love you.

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**Jarrod**: I’m not questioning their love Mark. I just feel like they still see me as little Jarrod! And those that I know want to support my vision seem to be afraid of Ma B. She’s the Warden around here?

**Mark**: Pastor, you’ve been in this church all your life and you’ve known Ma B. all your life. You know how she is. And your dad was chill so next to him, she ran the show.

**Jarrod**: Yeah but he had a way with her. He had a way of keeping her in line. Somehow it always worked. But she fights everything I do and say; and it’s like the church either agrees with her or are afraid to speak against her.

**Mark**: I don’t see how a woman so mean can sing like an angel?

**Jarrod**: (Chuckling) Truth man! That woman sure can sing. I never heard anyone like her.

**Mark**: Look Pastor, it’s not gonna be easy. We both know this. But I’m with you. I believe that God leads you and as long as I believe that, I’m with you.

**Jarrod**: Thanks Mark. You’ve always been a great Deacon.

**Mark:** As I was with Moses, so I’ll be with you!

*(They both laugh*)

**Jarrod**: Thank you.

**Mark**: Well the people are waiting. Let’s get this meeting started

**Jarrod**: Are you praying for me man?

**Mark**: Always.

*(Jarrod and Mark shake hands and give each other a half-hug)*

*(They enter the sanctuary where some of the church members are sitting and talking to one another)*

**Jarrod**: Good evening everyone! I want to thank you all for coming out tonight. I know you have so many other things you could be doing tonight, but I appreciate you responding to my call to meet. My original plan was to meet with you in a few months at the “1 year” mark of being your Pastor, but I had to meet with you immediately

**Ma B**: Oh Lord! How bad is it?

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**Jarrod**: Let’s open with prayer. Heavenly Father we ask that you bless this meeting tonight. Give us grace and understanding. We give you all the praise and Glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Well guys it’s no secret that we’ve been struggling financially for a while. When we purchased this building 3 years ago, we were able to pay the loan each month. But once my father got sick, things started going downhill.

**Ma B:** How so?

**Jarrod**: Well Ma B. it’s obvious that our membership has dwindled significantly. And so did the finances. We were in a tough bind before my dad passed, and I thought I could build the church back up, but….

**Sis. Margarate**: But you couldn’t.

**Mark**: Now wait a minute. We can’t put this all on Pastor. We are the members of this church. It’s our job to go out and bring souls in; have we done that?

**Ma B**: I’m not one for a big church. More people - more problems.

**Mark**: That’s not necessarily the case. We are a church. We want to grow. We want people to come to know God and serve him in the church don’t we?

**Ma B:** My late Pastor wasn’t concerned about the church growing. He wanted to make sure we were getting the Word every Sunday and growing as Christians.

**Jarrod**: Firstly, my dad was absolutely concerned about growing the church. He grew this church from a handful of people to hundreds. But in his last few years, he was very sick. Secondly, I’m not my father.

**Sis. Margarate**: “You got that right!”

**Mark**: I think we all need to show respect for our Pastor, his vision and whatever God leads him to do.

**Sis. Margarate**: We respect him. We’ve known the boy…..I mean Pastor - all his life. When his momma died, we helped Pastor take care of him. Changed his diapers....We do respect him. But he’s a new Pastor and he doesn’t know much yet….

**Mark**: But that doesn’t mean he doesn’t hear from God. Yes he’s young. But God can still use him in a great way to help this church!

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**Jarrod**: Look everyone! I’m just trying to lead us in the Will of God. That’s it. We’ve got some serious issues and we need to work together.

**Ma B**.: So how bad is it?

(It’s silent for a few seconds)

**Jarrod**: It’s bad guys. We are so behind in our gas and electric bills, our insurance is on the brink of lapsing and we haven’t been able to consistently pay our loan. And the Bank actually gave us three weeks to come up with 21,000 or….

**Ma B**: Or What?

**Jarrod**: Or they’re going to begin the foreclosure process on this building.

**Sis. Margarate**: Foreclosure. Now boy what have you done to this church?

**Jarrod**: I haven’t done anything.

**Sis. Margarate**: How much are we paying you….

*(Jarrod say’s nothing*)

**Sis Margarate**: That much!

**Mark**: Actually, Pastor never took a salary.

**Membe**r: What do you mean?

**Mark:** Just what I said. Pastor Jarrod hasn’t taken a nickel from this church since he became the Pastor. He’s done nothing but try to help us grow. But you keep fighting against everything he…

**Ma B**: Now hold on young man. You need to respect your elders….

**Mark**: I do respect you, but you need to respect our Pastor.

**Sis. Margarate**: We do respect him. But we’re not gonna go for all this new stuff in the church. We are a Holy church.

**Mark**: And we have a Holy Pastor. Change doesn’t mean ungodly!

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**Young member**: I believe in holiness too, but we need change! We’ve been doing the same things for years. We talk about change and even pray for change, but we always end up doing the same thing. No disrespect to our former Pastor, but he was getting up in age and….

(Looks at Pastor Jarrod) he appointed Pastor Jarrod for a reason. Every Leader needs a present-day vision. It’s not that we’re changing the Word or what we believe, but “Vision” should always be evolving… The world is changing around us and everyone seems to understand the need for adjustment but the church...that’s why so many churches are empty; That’s why we’re almost empty. Pastor Jarrod is trying to bring us to a place of relevance so we can be in tuned with the times.

**Ma B**: Young {man or lady} Judges 2:10 say’s “there arose a generation that knew not the Lord God.” You young people don’t understand…

**Young membe**r: And with all due respect Ma B. 1 Chronicles 12:32 says “And the children of Issachar, who were men of understanding, knew what Israel ought to do.”

**Sis. Margarate**: I knew it was a bad idea getting a young and inexperienced Pastor

**Mark:** We can’t blame this all on Pastor Jarrod. We were having problems long before he became the Pastor and it wasn’t your choice. Pastor passed the mantle to Jarrod because it’s what the Lord told “him” to do.

(*Members start whispering and murmuring*)

**Sis. Margarate**: I put too much time and money into this church. I’ve been here for over 20 years…

**Jarrod:** Look everyone. We are praying and believing God. He’s gonna work it out. We just have to pray and work together

**Ma B**: Well all I know is I’ve been in this church for over 30 years and I’ll fight tooth and nail before we let the “world” in this church.

**Mark:** We have a saved Pastor…

**Ma B**: No one’s questioning his salvation...

**Jarrod**: Enough! That’s it! That’s it!

**Mark:** Pastor…

**Jarrod**: It’s okay Deacon Mark. It’s over! (exiting) This meeting is over. You all have a Good night!