

CASE STUDY

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WHEN THE SOLUTION BECOMES THE PROBLEM

WHEN SYSTEMS CREATE BURDENS—
AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS CREATE QUESTIONS



The school changed its breakfast practice. Instead of eating in the cafeteria, students now ate breakfast in classrooms.
An administrator explained the change: some employees assigned to breakfast duty weren't arriving on time.



A staffing problem became a classroom problem. Teachers were now responsible for managing breakfast while also preparing for instruction and completing morning duties.



One teacher faced a bigger challenge. Her morning duty required her to supervise hallways outside her classroom—so she couldn't continuously see her students while they ate.



Food ended up on the carpet. Trash was left behind. Some students refused to clean it up. Then she began seeing roaches.
She reported the problem—and created a solution.



She placed four desks outside her classroom and created a small "breakfast café." Students ate there under her supervision, threw away their trash, and then entered the classroom.
It worked.
The classroom stayed cleaner. Students were supervised. Breakfast continued. She could fulfill her duty.



Then an administrator came to her. The breakfast café had to go. Students were required to eat inside the classroom. She explained why she had created it. She asked what was inappropriate about it.
No clear operational reason was given.



Instead, she was reminded why classroom breakfast had begun in the first place.
Teachers who were assigned breakfast duty weren't showing up on time.



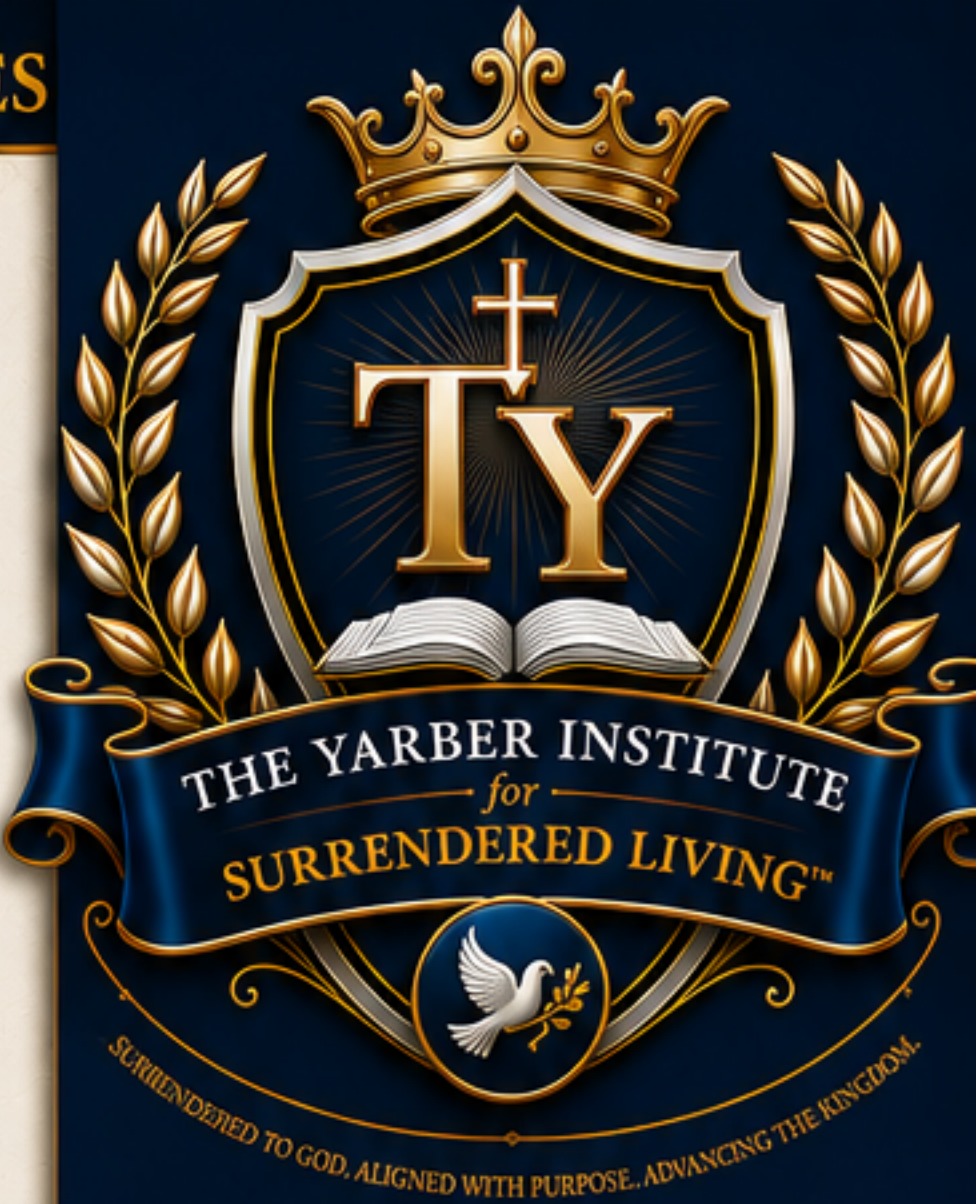
She asked a simple question:
"Why are we increasing everyone's workload because a few people aren't fulfilling their responsibility?"
She was told to bring the concern up at the next leadership meeting.



The breakfast café disappeared. And the burden returned. More work. More problems. Less time for what mattered.



She reminded them of the original purpose. But she also revealed the hidden cost of the solution. And she



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WHAT WAS GOD DOING?

Perhaps God was teaching her to recognize something larger than an inconvenient breakfast policy.

Sometimes dysfunction doesn't disappear. It gets redistributed.

When organizations repeatedly solve accountability problems by transferring the consequences to their most dependable people, competence can quietly become an invitation to carry more.

Perhaps God wasn't merely teaching her how to solve another problem.

Perhaps He was teaching her to recognize which problems were never hers to carry.



REFLECTION



Am I solving a problem—or absorbing one?



Has my competence made it easier for others to leave a broken system uncorrected?



Is God asking me to carry this—or simply showing me that it exists?

Resilience helps you overcome obstacles. Discernment teaches you which obstacles are yours to carry.

COMING OCTOBER 2026
WHEN THE BATTLEFIELD IS A SCHOOL BUILDING
*An Educator's Guide to Spiritual Warfare,
Workplace Mobbing, and Victory Through Christ
Purpose. Resilience. Divine Redirection.*

