

First Mount Zion Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
May 7, 2025
Step 3 STEWARDSHIP and Being a Fully Devoted Follower of Jesus Christ
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Sandra K. James

Objective: Continuing the study of our church's four-step strategy. The focus this month is on **Step 3 Stewardship** and being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Introduction: Our free-will offerings, given as an act of devotion and adoration, are a true sacrifice to God. God seeks free-will offerings because they are such a good indication of the devotion of the giver (Exodus 35:4-29; 36:6-7).

A. Stewardship. A steward is one who has been given custody of something that belongs to another and is expected to use it as the owner instructs (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Why do we give to God (1 Chronicles 29:14)?

- Who benefits from our giving (Acts 20:35; Philippians 4:17-19)?
- How does God determine our dedication to Him (Matthew 25:14-30)?

B. What Is Giving Really About? If we are not careful, we can look at giving from a selfish viewpoint and see it only as a loss without any gain.

- Giving Is About Us and God (Malachi 1:8,13; 3:8-10)
- Giving Is Not About Dollars (Luke 12:31-34)
- Giving Is About Sacrifice (2 Samuel 24:24)

C. The Gift of Sacrifice. If it doesn't cost us something, then it is not giving. If there is no sacrifice, then it is not a gift. Consider what each of the following has sacrificed.

- God (John 3:16)
- Jesus (John 15:13; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

How does God expect us to respond to these sacrifices (Luke 14:27-33; Philippians 2:5-8)? What have others sacrificed for Him?

- Poor Widow (Mark 12:41-44)
- Early Church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37)

D. Lay Up Treasures In Heaven. One who heaps up treasures will enjoy them only for a short time, but one who uses his resources for good will benefit throughout eternity.

- Matthew 6:19-21—
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19—
- Galatians 6:7-8—

CONCLUSION—Our weekly giving is a good indication of our dedication to God and a good test of our commitment—especially in a day and time when money is the ruling force in the world! Giving must be done generously, not as an obligation. Obligations hurt. Generosity never hurts (Proverbs 11:25; 13:7). Generosity always comes back to bless us (Luke 6:38).

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.