

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

First Mount Zion Baptist Church (FMZBC), Dumfries, Virginia

Mission - To Connect People Who Have a Desire To Become Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ

FMZBC Four Step Strategy - Worship/Study of the Word/***Stewardship**/Service

May 14, 2025



*Lesson Focus: The Principles of Stewardship

Presenters: Reverend Helen Parker (11:00 am) & Reverend Tarra Taylor (7:30 pm)

Objective: *We continue to examine “Stewardship” as a part of the First Mount Zion’s four step Strategy for accomplishing our mission “to connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” As a result of understanding faithful stewardship as a lifestyle, believers are able to experience spiritual growth and to experience more of the promises of God. They are therefore more fully equipped to connect others to Jesus Christ.*

Summary: Stewardship is not just about money, and that’s why this study takes a “whole-life” view on the subject of Stewardship. At First Mount Zion, we are committed to experiencing the promises of God and accomplishing our mission through faithful stewardship. Stewardship touches virtually every aspect of life and everything God puts into our hands. Psalm 24:1 proclaims that “the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (NIV). Theologian R.C. Sproul states, “stewardship is about exercising our God-given dominion over His creation, reflecting the image of our creator God in His care, responsibility, maintenance, protection, and beautification of His creation.” During the next two weeks our time of study will focus on areas called principles of Stewardship. Our May 14th session will explore 3 of those Biblically based principles of stewardship.

** 1) Faithful Dependability; 2) Paradoxical Participation; 3) Total Excellence.

1) The Principle of Faithful Dependability. We have been entrusted to manage all of God’s assets; the Gospel, money, time, talents, spiritual gifts, possessions, opportunities, influence, relationships, the secret things of God, and more. To handle it correctly demands absolute faithfulness. ***Trustworthiness marks the true steward.***

Read the listed scriptures (1Corinthians 4:2; Mark 10:42-45; Colossians 1:1-2; Luke 16:10-12). Share your reflections on faithfulness and trustworthiness.

2) The Principle of Paradoxical Participation. God is not impressed with outward appearances or natural abilities because the Lord looks upon the heart. Some of the most effective servants of Christ have been the most unlikely. They were people whose deepest longing was not to be known, but to make Him known. *The richest generosity often comes out of the deepest poverty.*

What are some examples of a modern-day paradox?

What paradoxical principles do you identify in these scriptures (1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 10:39; Matthew 19:30; 2 Corinthians 8:1- 4)?

3) The Principle of Total Excellence. “Many... unfortunately settle for the easy road. They choose the acceptable over the exceptional...” We are encouraged to always pursue the highest and best, never settling for mediocrity. *Excellence in giving is a part of a matched set of virtues.*

Daniel 5:3-10 says Daniel had a “spirit of excellence. What are some virtues/qualities exemplifying a spirit of excellence? _____

In what ways were Daniel’s Spirit of Excellence (Daniel 6:1-28) difficult and costly?

“The Lord doesn’t only want us to handle our money and possessions well, but to handle all aspects of our lives. To be faithful stewards, we are called to glorify God, serve the common good, and further God’s Kingdom.”

Terrance Glover

**Sutherland, David and Nowery, Kirk. *The 33 Laws of Stewardship*. 2003

“Stewardship is the wise, purposeful management of all that we have and all that we are. To understand stewardship is to grasp the essence of life’s meaning. To practice stewardship is to fulfill that meaning in a way that pleases God and satisfies the most profound human longings. These are truths with genuine power—a transcendent power that can transform the way we think, the way we plan, the way we act. Explore them. Meditate on them. Dare to put them into practice.”

Sutherland, Dave and Nowery, Kirk. *The 33 Laws of Stewardship: Principles for a Life of true Fulfillment*. Camarillo, California: Spire Resources, Incorporated, 2003.