

Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision

The Great Commission Mandate: Stewarding the Gospel Message

Good day everyone and welcome to our Bible study. We thank God for another opportunity to come together to grow in his word and strengthen our faith. We are studying an important message. The Great Commission reminds us is not something we receive. The Great Commission is something we are called to share and steward Faithfully. We will explore what it means to be stewards of the Gospel Message.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this time.

We thank you for your words that guide us and strengthen our faith.

Open our hearts and minds to understand our responsibility to steward the message

Help us grow in faith, wisdom and obedience to your calling

In Jesus name, Amen

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”-Matthew 28:18-20

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”-2 Corinthians 5:18-20

“And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”-Mark 16:15

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”-Colossians 1:28

It is time to share important messages with people on my own because I never trusted people to pass important messages to people. It depends on the person. As an introvert, I do not be friends with and trust just anybody. We live in a society where some pop you meet is not trustworthy. You have people that can turn your words all the way around. You have some people in the world that can deceive you. How many of you had people that you told to share a message to and end up deceiving you. We steward important messages in life. God has entrusted us with the Gospel to share faithfully. Today, we will explore what it means to steward the Gospel as a mandate from Christ and how we can faithfully fulfill the Great Commission. The Great Commission is not a suggestion. The Great Commission is a mandate from Jesus. Jesus begins with his authority in Matthew 28:18. Our stewardship is rooted in understanding that we represent Christ and His authority.

Read and familiarize yourself with 1 Corinthians 4:2 because it helps us understand stewardship of God's kingdom. We must honor 1 Corinthians 4:2 to be good stewards to the Lord. That is why I say people do not need to get baptized until you are ready to baptize. Baptism is not all about perfection to do something just to be doing something. The church still can register to do business in Memphis, Tennessee but the church would become a foreign entity. The actual church and sanctuary would be in North Mississippi as the main headquarters.

1. What does stewardship mean in the context of God's message?
2. I want you to go home and talk with your families about encouraging participants to reflect on how their life reflects the Gospel.

As a Christian and disciple, we must steward the gospel in five steps. We need to understand God's word and understand the Gospel. This is where Salem Baptist Church of Chicago during my membership comes into play with teachings from Pastor James Meeks. Salem Baptist of Chicago is the only church that I understood how to understand while I read the bible. I know how to read the bible and understand it by context later. We must live the message that God and his servants teach us in a chapel service at a homeless shelter. Christianity and living obedient to God is not a joke because you do not want to put yourself in a position when you die and figure out why you are sitting in hell forever. It is seven types of hell and to be familiar and know about. The seven levels of hell are limbo, lust, gluttony, greed, anger, heresy, violence and fraud. Stewardship means faithfully managing what God entrusted on you recognizing everything belongs to him. God gives you time, talents, spiritual gifts, influence and health. Money and resources are considered God's provision. Stewardship is giving, budgeting wisely, avoiding waste and supporting the ministry and the poor. Believers are entrusted in spreading the message. This is what the Great Commission is all about. Stewardship is accountability, integrity, transparency and serving as leader of church, organization or ministry. Jesus modeled servant leadership. Stewardship is managing God's resources for God's purpose. Stewardship applies to church Governance, compliance and accountability.

The first circle called limbo is home to the unbaptized and virtuous pagans. The first circle is called limbo not Heaven. The first circle is called limbo, the retirement community of the afterlife. Hippocrates and Aristotle will be your neighbors. The second circle is called lust is the final destination of the lustful and adulterous. The grand action of hell is ground and home for people all about materialistic things. The fourth circle of hell is a place for people that live their life on earth by mammon. We must share God's message with others as it is taught to us. That is a real disciple of Jesus on earth and at the same time read Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8. The scripture we teach us intentional evangelism and discipleship. Also the scripture teaches us how to serve God as disciples and Christians on earth so we can take that walk in heaven after we die on earth. We want to be part of the new heaven and new earth after we die on earth. We need to multiply the message by training and mentoring others. My spiritual gifts are shepherding, prophecy, wisdom, knowledge and exhortation. As a man of God, I have performed 2 Timothy 2:2 since 2014. I performed 2 Timothy 2:2 when I had to start off at homeless shelters on the east coast since 2014 while I lived in Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York City area, Houston, Louisville, Charlotte, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint. The responsibility of stewardship is being committed to the message of reconciliation. The gospel is trust from God. Believers are stewards of the message. We represent Christ as ambassadors. We must protect the integrity of the Gospel. We must live in a way that reflects Christ. Do not follow the path of these under 30 year olds that are all about idolatry, sin, temptation and envy. We must share the message faithfully. As Christians and disciples, we must go out and evangelize. We encourage people to be baptized and born again to bring people in the faith community. I will be presiding over baptism the second Sunday of this month. I will be presiding over communion this Sunday. Our bus ministry only allows a ten mile radius. It means you must be a Memphis resident in Whitehaven, Collierville and live near the Tennessee border. The Bus Ministry will also travel to areas in DeSoto County. We must develop spiritual integrity. The great commission is not just about conversation. The great commission is about discipleship. Jesus never sends us alone. The Holy Spirit empowers the mission. The church continues this mission through Christ's return. Wherever people are, do not let no one judge your hearts. Tell the person next you and say people do not fall into the rubble and static of the world. I want to say this statement applies to people at homeless shelters that are surrounded around people all about rubble and static. I want to say that to homeless shelters

that will hate on you for your success, surrounded by people that think they know it all, gossip about people and think they know it all, like to be judgemental people. You will be surrounded by people at homeless shelters that are ungodly and still comfortably living in sin. You will be surrounded by people at homeless shelters that do care about building a Barn and legacy blueprint. Faithfulness to the mission brings divine support. Christ has all the authority. The church has a mission. Believers are stewards of the gospel. Discipleship is the goal. Christ promises to be with us. Encourage people to commit to living and sharing the Gospel daily.

1. Who will you share the Gospel with this week?
2. How are you stewarding the message God entrusted in you?

When I think about the Great Commission, I realized that God was preparing me for service long before I understood what ministry really meant. When I was 15 years old, I served and worked as a teachers aide for minimum wage in the summer youth program in Chicago. My responsibility was to help the teacher, assist students and support the classroom. At the time, I thought I was helping with school work, but looking back I see God was teaching me something deeper. Serving as a teachers aide taught me patience, leadership and responsibility for helping others grow. That experience was reflected as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19-20 to go make disciples and teach them. Looking back, God was already developing my heart for service, mentorship and community outreach. Teachers help students understand lessons. Believers are called to help people understand the Gospel. That early experience showed me ministry is not always about standing behind the pulpit. It starts by helping, serving and guiding others. I think about times in my life when I served the community in different ways. In 2008 and 2012, I volunteered during Obama Presidential campaigns. During that time, I worked with people in the community and in Chicago, helped with fundraising and organized efforts, and encouraged people to participate in civic life. What I learned from experience volunteering for the Obama campaign was the importance of reaching people where they are, listening to their concerns, and working together for the good of the community. Those lessons later helped me understand something about the mission Jesus gives in Matthew 28:19-20 where he tells his followers to go into the world and make disciples. Campaigns reach out in communities and invite people to participate in something bigger than themselves. The church goes in the community and invites people into a relationship with Christ. That experience from Obama campaigns in 2008 and 2012 taught me about serving, organizing and connecting with people. I apply those principles to ministry today, serving the community, helping others, mentoring others, and sharing the Gospel message with others with compassion and purpose. When I think about the Great Commission, I realized that God was preparing me for service long before I understood what ministry really meant. When I was 15 years old, I served and worked as a teachers aide for minimum wage in the summer youth program in Chicago. My responsibility was to help the teacher, assist students and support the classroom. At the time, I thought I was helping with school work, but looking back I see God was teaching me something deeper. Serving as a teachers aide taught me patience, leadership and responsibility for helping others grow. That experience was reflected as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19-20 to go make disciples and teach them. Looking back, God was already developing my heart for service, mentorship and community outreach. While I was a student, I had the opportunity to serve on student government at Depaul University and Malcolm X College in Chicago. I learned how to represent students, listen to people's concerns, and work to improve the community around me. I served on the Junior Board of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago which opened my eyes to the needs of people who are struggling with poverty, homelessness and hardship. The experiences helped me understand something important about the mission Jesus gives us in Matthew 28:19-20. The Great Commission calls us to preach the Gospel by engaging people, care for communities, and be servants that reflect God's love. I learned leadership, compassion and responsibility through student government and community service. The lessons helped me shape my heart for

ministry. It helped me understand that the Gospel is what we do to serve others and work the good of communities. I see my experiences as part of God's preparation for the work I am doing now by mentoring others, serving the community, and stewarding the Gospel message. When I think about the Great Commission, I think about ways God has allowed me to serve others through giving and helping people become self-sufficient. In 2018 and 2019, I was involved in giving and fundraising efforts that supported programs for people in need. I volunteered as a Life Skills and Self Sufficiency Coach in Cleveland in 2017 working with individuals who are trying to build lives. I found out in 2017 that Gospel is not something you preach because it demonstrates compassion, generosity and service. Matthew 25:35 shows us serving those in need is part of reflecting God's heart. I put my faith in action in 2017 to help homeless people in Cleveland develop life skills, encouraging them with life sufficiency, and supporting programs through fundraising. In 2017, it taught me the leadership to lift people up, empower them, and walk with them as they grow. When I reflect on the Great Commission, I think about times I volunteered to serve meals and help with community programs in Brooklyn, Chicago and Philadelphia. I learned that ministry begins with meeting people's basic needs with hot meals that communicate care, dignity and hope. That is why I gave away my lunch and food to the homeless in Chicago in 2015. When you serve people with compassion, we demonstrate the love for Christ. In Philadelphia and Chicago, it taught me that stewarding the Gospel is all about serving others, restoring dignity, and building relationships with people who may forget feel forgotten. The first step is sharing the message of Christ by simply showing kindness and meeting someone where they are. My volunteer experience helped shape my heart for ministry and committing to serving others and providing hope. I reflect on the times I served as an outreach and service volunteer in Detroit and Philadelphia. I had the opportunity to connect with people in Philadelphia and Detroit in 2017, 2018 and 2024 that are struggling. I found out in Philadelphia and Detroit what happens outside the walls of the church. Outreach is about going where the people are and showing them support, hope and compassion. Serving in outreach helped me understand the Gospel must be lived out through action. When we serve people, listen to their stories and care about their needs to create opportunities to share the message of Christ. My commitment in the community strengthened year after year to remind me that the Great Commission is not limited to one place. My mission remained the same in Philadelphia, Detroit, Brooklyn to love people, serve people and community faithfully, and share hope of the gospel. I want to reflect on the transformation God brought to my life when I completed the spiritual recovery program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston. It was a place God began to restore my faith, rebuilding my purpose, and guiding me to a new direction. I learned that recovery is not all about recovery from personal struggles. It is about what God is calling to your life. I understood the importance of sharing with others who feel lost or discouraged. When we share how God helped us through difficult seasons, it reminds others that change and restoration is possible. The Recovery program at Star of Hope Mission helped me see that God can take past experiences and turn them into. Ministry. I used that experience to encourage others, mentoring people that are rebuilding their lives and serve the community with compassion. My journey of recovery became part of my calling to steward the Gospel and help others find hope in Christ. I think about my partnerships in ministry that I helped share the Gospel as a Faith Partner at Bill Winston Ministries. The partnership is still active today. My role as a faith partner is to stand with ministries and steward God's message to transform lives. I want to reflect on the seasons of my life when I was traveling from place to place and staying at homeless shelters. It felt like a difficult chapter, but many people told me something that stayed with me that God can still be with me at homeless shelters and using me. Sometimes missions do not happen in comfortable settings. Mission can happen on the streets, or in communities where people need it most. My experience at homeless shelters taught me humility, compassion and deeper understanding of struggles others face. It strengthened my calling to serve people that are rebuilding their lives. I recognize that part of stewarding the Gospel message is preparing ourselves to serve others well. God has allowed me to gain training and certifications that help me minister to people in different settings. I have received certification as a chaplain, which prepares me to

provide spiritual care, encouragement, and guidance to people who are going through difficult seasons of life. Chaplaincy teaches us how to listen, pray with people, and bring hope in moments when people may feel lost or discouraged. I have also completed leadership certificates through the DePaul University Leadership Institute, including Leadership in the Workplace, Organizational Leadership, and Socially Responsible Leadership. These programs helped me understand how leadership can be used to serve communities and support the well-being of others. The experiences remind me that the Great Commission in Gospel of Matthew 28:19–20 calls us not only to share the Gospel, but to grow in wisdom and preparation so we can guide and support others effectively. The certifications are tools that help me steward the Gospel message. They equip me to provide spiritual care, mentor people, and lead initiatives that help strengthen communities. Education and faith together allow us to serve people with both compassion and wisdom. Stewarding the Gospel includes preparing yourself for ministry. Leadership training helps you serve communities more effectively. Chaplaincy equips you to care for people spiritually and emotionally. Education can support the mission of the church and community outreach. I think about the moment in 2018 when I was elevated from pastor to bishop by another bishop who believed in the work that my church and I were doing in the community during an elevation service in Detroit. That moment was not just a title change. The moment was a reminder of the greater responsibility to serve God’s people and steward the Gospel message faithfully. The Great Commission in Gospel of Matthew 28:19–20 calls leaders to go, make disciples, and teach others. When I was elevated to the role of bishop, it reminded me that leadership in the church is ultimately about service. It means guiding others in faith, encouraging believers, and supporting ministries that help communities grow spiritually and socially. The bishop in South Carolina who supported me recognized the outreach work our church was doing, such as serving people, mentoring others, and engaging the community. That encouragement strengthened my commitment to continue advancing the mission of the church. The moment represented a deeper calling to lead with humility, integrity, and dedication to the Gospel. It reminded me that every position in ministry is an opportunity to serve God’s people and help carry out the Great Commission.

- Leadership is a form of service
- Community involvement can prepare you for ministry
- Engage in community
- Organize community and people for a mission
- Communicate a message clearly
- Prepare you for spiritual leadership
- Supporting the work to help others
- Help people rebuild their lives
- Guide people towards growth and stability
- Showing Christ love through action
- Compassion service
- Meeting physical and spiritual needs
- Building relationships with people in the community
- Demonstrate Christ love through action
- God uses personal transformation as a testimony
- Recovery can become a ministry to help others