

First Baptist Church Mahan Street

Pastor's Bible Study (P.B.S.)

2/4/2026

“The Year of Discipleship Investment”



“Spaceships/don’t come equipped/with rear view mirrors”

- Andre 3000, “Int’l Players Anthem (I Choose You)”

WEEK ONE: The Call to Investment

Theme: Discipleship as Deep Commitment and Not Passive Participation

Core Vision Statement

In 2026, God is calling us to move from **membership to discipleship** and from **participation to investment**. The Christ is requiring of us to become disciples who are **fully present, deeply formed, missionally engaged, and faithfully committed** to the stewardship of God’s house and the witness of His kingdom.

This vision reframes discipleship not as attendance but as **investment**, evidenced in the intentional offering of **time, gifts, resources, and presence** for the sake of God’s kingdom.

1. Theological Foundation: Investment as Discipleship

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 6:21 — “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Luke 9:62 — “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back...”

- Matthew 25:14–30 — The Parable of the Talents
- Romans 12:1–2 — A living sacrifice as spiritual worship
- James 2:14–17 — Faith proven by works
- Colossians 3:23–24 — Whatever you do, work at it as unto the Lord

Devotional Point

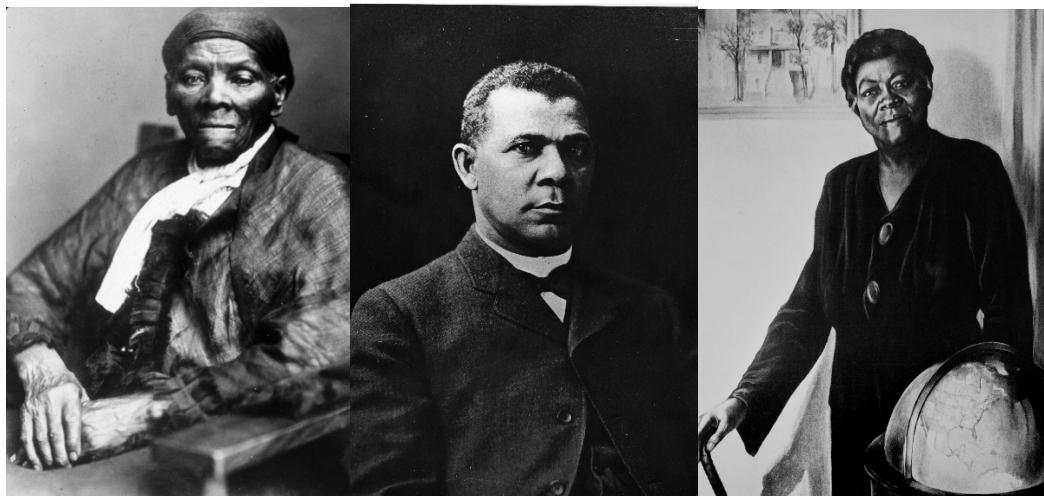
Investment reveals identity.

Where we invest shows who we truly are. Not what we say, but what we give, commit, and make ourselves available to.

Learning Illustration

Imagine a farmer who “believes” in harvest but never plants. **Belief without investment produces emptiness.** The kingdom is the same: **God multiplies what we sow, not what we intend.**

Black Excellence Connection



Harriet Tubman invested her courage into liberation.

Booker T. Washington invested his gifts into institution-building.

Mary McLeod Bethune invested vision into education, leaving a legacy that still bears fruit.

Each represents the same spiritual truth: **investment transforms the present and future generations.**

Reflection Questions

1. What do my daily investments in the kingdom reveal about my discipleship?
2. What does the Parable of the Talents teach me about responsibility?
3. Where is God calling me to shift from intention to action?

2. Vision Pillar One: Discipleship Investment Through Ministry

Theme: Serving With Stewardship

“We don’t serve to fill a role; we serve because we belong.”

Vision Shift

- From **volunteering** → **serving**
- From **helping out** → **building the house**
- From **excuses** → **accountability**
- From **spectating** → **engaged participation**

Key Scriptures

- 1 Peter 4:10 — *Use whatever gift you have received to serve others.*
- Ephesians 4:11–16 — Equipping the saints for the work of ministry
- Mark 10:45 — The Son of Man came to serve

Devotional Point

Ministry is not extra. It is our identity in Christian faithfulness and obedience.

We serve because Christ served first.

Theological Illustration

Think of a home-builder: when they build a house, they care about details. Why? Because the house becomes part of their identity. So too for the kingdom.

Black Excellence Connection (Biblical)

- **Moses' sister Miriam** — invested leadership in worship and liberation.
- **Simon of Cyrene** — an African disciple who served Christ directly (Mark 15:21).
- **The Ethiopian Eunuch** — carried the gospel into Africa through one moment of invested obedience (Acts 8:26–39).

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between filling a role and embracing a calling?
2. How has God shaped your gifts for ministry beyond titles?
3. What does “spiritual stewardship” mean in the life of the church?

WEEK ONE: Small Group Exercise

“Map Your Investment”

- Each group lists the four areas where disciples invest:
Time | Presence | Gifts | Resources
- Each person identifies **one area where they feel strong** and **one area where God is stretching them**.
- Close by praying in pairs for mutual growth.

Quarter 1: January–March 2026

“Alignment: Investing the Heart”

“Seek first the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33)

Spiritual Aim:

To realign our **hearts, habits, and priorities** with Christ and the mission of the church.

Key Emphasis

- Spiritual disciplines
- Consistent presence

- Recommitment to stewardship

Investment Commitments

Presence

- Attend weekly worship consistently (target: 90% participation)
- Attend at least **three Bible studies and Sunday School gatherings**
- Commit to daily prayer (minimum 20 minutes)

Ministry

- Reaffirm or reassign ministry role with clarity
- Participate in one ministry endeavor with a new heart

Witness

- Identify **three people** outside of your house to pray for daily
- Initiate at least **one faith-centered conversation** per month with someone outside of the ministry and family

Stewardship

- Make a clear, prayerful decision regarding **faithful tithing**
- Set up consistent, authentic giving (weekly/bi-weekly/monthly)

Reflection Question

What does my current investment reveal about my discipleship priorities?

Week One Closing Prayer

“Gracious and Eternal God,

We thank You for calling us into a deeper place of discipleship. Tonight, You have reminded us that Your kingdom is not built on our intentions, but on our investments; on the offering of our hands, our hearts, our gifts, and our presence.

Lord, plant within us a holy dissatisfaction with spiritual complacency. Stir us into movement. Remove every distraction that keeps us from placing our treasure where our faith is. Shape our desires so that what we long for is what You love, and what we pursue is

what You have purposed.

Father, just as You strengthened Harriet Tubman to keep walking through the wilderness of impossibility, and just as You fortified the early church to stay steadfast in the breaking of bread, prayer, and fellowship, strengthen us now to walk boldly in our calling.

Let our investments become testimonies. Let our service become formation. Let our sacrifices become seeds that bear fruit in our families, our church, and our community. Holy Spirit, breathe new conviction, new courage, and new commitment into Your people. And as we leave this study, let Your word follow us, speak to us, and refuse to let us go until we surrender all.

Make us not only hearers, but invested doers of Your Word.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Master Builder of our faith, we pray. Amen.”

Next Week's Lesson: *God is Calling Us to Discipleship – Not Another Costco/Sam's Club Membership*