



**Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
**Rev. Joshua M. Daniels, Senior Pastor**  
**The Huddle**  
**July 23, 2022**

**Cultivating A Life-Giving Culture**

Big Idea: CULTURE TRUMPS EVERYTHING!

Theme Scripture: Mark 4:26-29

"If vision is the steak, then Culture is the plate. - It doesn't matter how good your steak is if it's served on a dirty plate!" - Pastor Joshua M. Daniels

- Culture happens by design or default.
- In our homes, jobs, churches and business we can either carry the culture or kill the culture. We cannot do both and we cannot do either.
- Culture trumps everything.

***What is Culture?***

***Simply Put: It's How It All Feels!***

***We should seek to develop a life-giving culture!***

***If Jesus came to give life, our church should too!***

***Culture is ROOTED IN VISION***

- Culture is either cultivated or tolerated. But one thing for sure, a healthy culture doesn't just happen!
- Healthy things grow.
- You cannot have a healthy culture without a clear vision.
- You cannot give life if you don't understand your assignment.
- Our vision is to CHANGE LIVES!
- Our culture must be rooted in this vision!
- We must begin to see ourselves as Life Changers. We must begin to see ourselves as carriers of the vision.

## ***Culture is REINFORCED by VALUES***

- To have a healthy culture you don't just need a clear vision, but you also need core values!
- Our Core Values represent who we are. They are not just what we do, they are part of our DNA. These are non-negotiable for our staff and servant leaders.
- Vocabulary matters. In order to get people unified around the same vision, they must first embrace the same values.
- Our vision tells us what we want to do. Our values tell us how we go about accomplishing that vision.

### ***Mount Zion Core Values***

#### ***Jesus Is Our Message***

Our purpose is to share the hope of Jesus. Jesus is our message. We are Jesus people, not religious or Church people. Methods will come and go, yet our message will remain the same.

#### ***People Are Our Passion***

We love all people because Jesus loves all people. We are specifically focused on reaching those who are far from God. We are willing to do anything short of sin to reach the lost.

#### ***Excellence Is Our Standard***

We are always going to do the best that we can with what we have. We don't do things half way. If we're going to do it, it's going to be to the best of our ability. If it bears God name, it deserves our best.

#### ***Serving Is Our Identity***

If you're too big to serve then you are too small to lead. We believe the greatest leadership is service to others. Every leader is a servant first. From the parking lot to the pulpit, everyone serves. Every role is different but they are all important. If you ain't helping, you ain't helping!

#### ***Generosity Is Our Privilege***

Generosity is about giving more than what is required. We see generosity as a privilege. We're generous with our time, talents, and treasure. We go first in our giving. God has given richly towards us, and it's our honor to give back to Him.

#### ***The Holy Spirit Is Our Guide***

We believe that nothing can be accomplished without the power of God at work through the Holy Spirit within us. We will always be a people committed to prayer, fasting, and living by faith. We are not interested in doing this journey without God.

#### ***The World Is Our Mission Field***

We believe that God wants us to write fresh history for the future. We are committed to being an authentic, innovative, trail-blazing ministry that influences and impacts every nation and generation.

### *Culture is REALIZED through VEHICLES (systems)*

- Your structure and systems have to fit the culture to work.
- The key to a great system is process not programs. Steps we want them to take not just things we want them to do.
- We must ask: Do our systems deliver our vision? Do they reflect our culture?
- We must ask: Is the structure of our organization consistent with the culture I'm trying to create?

### *Mount Zion Systems*

- Our vision is to change lives. We want to take people on a spiritual journey where they are able to Love God, Experience Freedom, Discover their Purpose, and Impact The World.
- We deliver this vision through FOUR systems:
  - Love God: Worship Services
  - Experience Freedom: Christian Education
  - Discover Your Purpose: Starting Point
  - Impact The World: Ministries & Zion Cares

### *Culture Cancers*

- Thinking About Only Yourself  
Our preference needs to be people. We should be servant leaders not selfish leaders. We must focus on what we are giving and not just about what we are getting.
- Be a Know It All  
If the enemy fails to kill us with failure, he will distract us with success. We need humble and teachable spirits be approachable, ask questions, and be ok with making mistakes.
- Don't Make A Plan  
Lack of plan equals a lack of progress. In all areas of our lives - relationships, careers, finances, leisure time and on our individual journeyed with Jesus Christ - it is vital that we make the time, carve out the blueprint, release the dead weight and have a vision.
- Focusing More on What than Why  
Your why is representative of the heart behind what you do. Why are we doing this? Why are you doing this? The why is our fuel. If we forget our why, chances are we will find ourselves running on fumes. And if we breakdown in the process, we're destined to take others down with us.

## ***Culture Carriers***

- Embrace The Vision & Culture

Culture carriers are people who have fully embraced the vision and culture, and take it personal. They are personally invested in seeing the vision come to pass and seeing the Church have a life-giving culture.

- Embody The Vision & Culture

Culture carries are people who live out the vision and the culture. They are people who are committed to seeing lives changed, and who exemplify all of the values of the House.

- Expand The Vision & Culture

Culture carries are people who replicate the vision and culture because they become changed people who in turn change the world!

### ***Things To Remember:***

- Culture trumps everything.
- Culture is either created by design or default.
- You are either a culture carrier or a culture killer. You can't be both and you can't be neither.