

**Sermon Title:** Change The World

**Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 29:4-7 & 1 Peter 2:9-10

**Be with Jesus**

Create, recapture, or strengthen **rhythms of presence**  
(2023)

**Become like Jesus**

Create, recapture, or strengthen the **practices of grace** in your life  
(2023)

**Change the world**

Changing the world means partnering with God & others in the furtherance of God's Kingdom on Earth **as it is Heaven**

Partner with God with **the entirety of your life**

**Love your neighbor** as yourself

Participate in the family of God, **seeking to serve & being a blessing**

*"So enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did the [slave] trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition. Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that **I would never rest until I had effected its abolition.**"*

-William Wilberforce

Take **the long view** of renewal

*"This neighborhood will never be the same **without you**. You will be truly missed...r.i.p. my friend..."*

-In Memoriam Judditte "Janice" Williams 3/16/20

Loving neighbors

Embrace **the ground view** of renewal

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:1-16

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming *the gospel of the kingdom* and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming *the gospel of the kingdom* and healing every disease and every affliction.

Matthew 9:35

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**The kingdom of God as primarily dynamic not spatial**

**-The kingdom as where God's rule & reign is embraced & expressed**

The path of the righteous is level;  
you make level the way of the righteous.

<sup>8</sup> In the path of **your judgments**,

O Lord, we wait for you;  
your name and remembrance  
are **the desire of our soul**.

<sup>9</sup> **My soul yearns** for you in the night;  
my spirit within me **earnestly** seeks you.

For when **your judgments** are in the earth,  
the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

Isaiah 26:7-9

**The kingdom of God universally & eternally**

**-The kingdom as the totality of God's sovereignty**

Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,  
<sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”

<sup>4</sup>**He who sits in the heavens laughs;**  
the Lord holds them in derision.

Psalm 2:1-4

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Psalm 145:13

### **The kingdom of God in terms of salvation**

- When examining it as it relates to God, it's focused on **God's work of rescuing all people & renewing all things**
- When examining it as it relates to people, it's focused on **people's participation regarding life with God**

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are **you**

**God's strategy for changing the world is **your entire life & our lives together****

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

**Salt speaks to **preservation, healing, & enhancing delight****

<sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

John 2:10

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. **A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.** <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

**Light speaks to **illumination & invitation towards life****

**As light embodies warmth, **truth must embody warmth as well****

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

**Stories**

**Habits**

**Relationships**

**Work**

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

**Change the world**

**Embrace, recapture, or strengthen *the identity of neighbor & the art of neighboring* (2023)**