

# FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF OUR CITY

"For the Good of the City" - Revs. Jeremy & Holly Bates

Sermon Notes: February 8, 2026

Text: Matthew 5:14-16

Happy 100th Birthday, Bethel Church! 🎉

"What if the Church's greatest impact didn't happen on a stage, or even in the church building - but in the streets, homes, and everyday moments of our city?

We're keeping our 100th anniversary celebration going with week two of our refreshed mission statement reveal, leaning into what it means to live out faith beyond the church walls. The church has left the building!

**Living for the glory of God is both our COLLECTIVE and INDIVIDUAL calling:**

- *"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."*
- *William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury*
- "Work for the peace and prosperity of the city..." Jeremiah 29:7
- We are on mission FOR HIM. FOR HERE.

**Good WORKS build good WILL which softens hearts to the GOOD NEWS.**

- John 1:14 - Jesus made his home AMONG US, so that his love & faithfulness could be SEEN.
- How can our community see the unfailing love and faithfulness of God if everything we do happens within the walls of our church?

## **1) We need to have PRESENCE, not just be PRESENT**

- "Who would notice if our church was to close? Anyone?"
- Jesus' strategic plan: Luke 10:2-3 - NOW GO!
- Jesus' strategy was for us to GO, not for people to COME to us.
- Presence builds trust.
- *"The church needs to show up in the community before the community will show up in church."*
- If we AIM FOR THE PAIN, people in our community will notice.
- Find common ground + Build relationship + Speak truth

## **2) We need to lower ROADBLOCKS and build ONRAMPS**

- Making the gospel accessible and understandable so that people can get into the flow of what God is doing.
- The ENGLE SCALE:

## **3) We need to see our city, not through the lens of PROBLEMS, but POSSIBILITY**

Matthew 19:25,26 -

..with man this is impossible, but God, all things are possible."



**"FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF OUR CITY"**



# Life Group Discussion

## Warm-Up:

**ONES GOTTA GO!** In this fun game, you've got to choose between two objects, which one would you keep, and which one would you do without...forevermore!

- Coffee vs Cell Phone
- Brushing Teeth vs Brushing Hair
- Pictures vs Videos
- Cats vs Dogs
- Bacon vs Ice Cream
- Internet vs Cars

## Study & Discussion:

### Read Matthew 5:13-16

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) When you hear the phrase “the good of the city,” what emotions or ideas come to mind? Excitement, pressure, curiosity, resistance? Why do you think that is?

3) In your experience, how has the church in general, Bethel and others, shown up in the community? Where and how have you seen that done well? What was the impact?

4) Take a moment to look over the ENGLE SCALE on the other side of this page? How might this tool help us in sharing faith with others? What was your personal experience in moving through these steps?

5) What do you think are some common roadblocks that make faith feel inaccessible to people today? Which of those do you personally feel most aware of? How can the church, corporately and individually help build ramps for people to access the truth of the Gospel?

6) People in our city are very aware of the problems, but what about seeing it through the lens of possibility? What are the problems, and how might God bring transformation to those areas?

**Prayer:** Take time as a group, to pray for those “areas of possibility” in our city, and then pray for the communities our church represents: from Peachland to Osoyoos!

