



Week 6: We Are the Church in Hard Places (St. Matthew - Walnut Park, St. Louis)

Hosts: Trevonte and Seminarian Chuck

Theme: Gospel presence in difficult neighborhoods—why the church must remain present in hard places.

Key Scripture Readings:

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Isaiah 58:10-12

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important for churches to be present in struggling areas?
2. How does God call His people to care for the afflicted and marginalized?
3. What challenges do churches in hard places face? How can we support them?
4. How can we bring the presence of Christ into difficult situations in our own communities?

Reflection & Application:

- Write about a time when you saw God's light in a dark place.
- How can the church be a refuge for those in difficult circumstances?
- What does it mean to be a "repairer of the breach" in your community?

Action Challenge:

- Spend time in prayer for churches and ministries in struggling areas.
- Find a way to support a church or ministry in a hard place—through financial giving, volunteering, or advocacy.
- Reach out to someone in your community who may feel isolated or abandoned.