

July 8, 2018
Hello Summer Series
The Cross
Alex Himaya

Note to facilitators: This sermon had so much to ponder. There are more questions than usual. As always, pick and choose what you think will be most helpful for your group.

1. Alex Himaya's text was I Corinthians 15:1-8. Verse one says: "Now, brothers (and sisters), I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand."

*What have you reminded your children of?

*What does the word "gospel" mean? (**good news**)

*What aspect of the gospel do you need to be reminded of?

*What do you think Paul means when he says they have taken their stand on the gospel?

2. What were the four points that Alex listed, each starting with "Christ"?
(**Christ died, Christ was buried, Christ rose again, Christ was seen**)

3. As Alex discussed the Last Supper, what significance did he give to Jesus being called the Bread of Life. (**Bread wasn't a side or optional dish in the time and place Jesus lived, it was the main part of the meal. It was the main thing that sustained their physical life. Jesus, all he has said and done, sustains us. And we remember that in a special way each time we "break the bread" during communion.**)

4. What does Gethsemane, the garden on the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed before his ordeal began, mean? (**the press**)

5. Alex told us when they olives are pressed by the use of animals or humans, they make three passes. What do each of the passes produce and how is each appropriate to represent Jesus? (**The first pass produces extra virgin olive oil and was used for the Holy of Holies and represents "the holiness of Jesus." The second pass produces olive oil, which they used for light, which represents "the Light of the World." The third pass crushes the seeds and is used for lye, which represents the cleansing Jesus brings to us.**)

6. What was the worse thing you remember about what Jesus suffered before going to the cross?

7. Why did Alex say nature was "shocked" when Jesus died? (**There was an earthquake and also total darkness in the afternoon. Nature was reacting to the outrageous suffering and death of the Word, through whom everything was made that has been made.**)

8. How many soldiers guarded the tomb of Jesus and what was the penalty if the stone was removed? (**16; death**)

9. What does Jesus's death mean to you?

10. Have you lived through "three days of darkness"? When have you felt hopeless? When have you felt abandoned? When have you felt that God was gone?

11. Alex said the stone was removed not to let Jesus out but to let "us" in to witness the resurrection. What kind of joy does the resurrection stir in your heart? How has Jesus brought new life to you?

12. What does it mean to us that Jesus made special note of Peter? **(Peter betrayed Jesus, but Jesus wanted him to know he was risen, Peter was forgiven, and all is well. He also had Peter preach the first gospel sermon on the Day of Pentecost.)**

13. Alex said our sense of smell ignites memory. What point did he make about the charcoal? **(Peter denied Jesus to a girl while they stood by a charcoal fire; Jesus reinstated or commissioned Peter after preparing the disciples breakfast with a fire that would have been charcoal fed. Charcoal reminded Peter of both moments, but the latter redeemed the former.)**

14. Alex reminded us that Jesus told his disciples who had caught nothing all night to put their nets on the right side of the boat. What happened and what is the significance of it? **(They experienced a miracle of catching a large number of fish where there had been none. It speaks of Jesus's ability to do what is impossible. Stating the number of fish was 153 is important because in the Hebrew alphabet and their numbering system 153 means "I Am He.")**

15. Read I Cor. 15:1-8 and tell some of those who saw Jesus after his resurrection.

16. What is one thing you learned from the Cross Sermon?

17. What does the cross—its totality—mean to you? To the World?"