



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Why the Cross

SPEAKER Elder Lok Vi Ming

THEME The Triumph of the Cross

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Why the Cross?

With Good Friday just a week away, Elder Lok's sermon highlights the significance of the Cross – not just about the cross which Jesus died on, but what He did on the cross as an act of love for us. The sermon reminds us to look to the cross for redemption and revelation.

The Cross for Redemption and Revelation

Before Jesus was to be crucified on the cross, He knew what was to come. He was distressed but He knew He had to fulfil God's Will – to take the cup of wrath from God, to take the place of man at the cross, to die for our sins once and for all, to give us life. Therefore, when we look to the cross, we seek redemption and revelation.

1. Cross for Redemption

The Cross saved us when Jesus became the living sacrifice for our sins, and it is important for us to look deeper beyond just the act of saving us. When Jesus died on the cross, He was a **substitute** for us. Without Jesus, we would have to die for our sins. This substitution also means the complete **forgiveness** of God for our sins.

What Jesus did on the cross for us sinners mirrors the story of Moses in the Old Testament (Numbers 21: 6-9). When the people of Israel sinned, God sent fiery serpents which bit them. So Moses prayed for them and the Lord had Moses make a bronze Serpent, that whoever was bitten would be saved when he looked at the bronze serpent. Just as how the people of Israel looked at the bronze serpent and lived, we have Jesus Christ today whom we look to for us to live.

2. Cross for Revelation

Besides being our redemption, the cross also reveals to us more about God. Firstly, it reveals God as a fellow sufferer. Jesus knows any pain and suffering we experience because He took the biggest suffering of all (Isa 53:5). He also experienced abandonment when he cried out to God: "why have You forsaken Me?"

Secondly, the Cross reveals the extent of God's love and how little we know it. Jesus like the Prodigal son; left the father with everything and came back with nothing. The difference was that the Prodigal son wasted everything but Jesus gave away everything He had to His people, even His life. Even at the point of His death, it was written in Luke 23:34 that Jesus' love for us was so great that he still asked God to forgive us for our sins.

Conclusion

In conclusion, God's love for us through Jesus Christ is so great and powerful. And all that was done at the cross for us has given us hope in the power of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing you used to struggle with but have been experiencing redemption and help through the Cross?

2. Elder Lok speaks of the cross as being a prism for revelation. Personally, what has the cross revealed to you about God and what impact has it had?

3. How can we respond to this reminder of God's love for us at the cross differently this coming Good Friday weekend?