



Not Home Yet – Part 7

Pastor Tom Kang

ICEBREAKER: If you could keep only one doomsday prep item, what would it be, and why?

1. When you hear “the end is near,” what’s your gut reaction: prep, preach, panic, or shrug? Which headline (nuclear weapons, climate change, economics, AI, etc.) most often hijacks your imagination? Why?
2. Peter does not open his end-times teaching with a date; he opens with a suffering Savior. Read 1 Peter 4:1-2 again slowly. Pastor Tom mentioned how much of sin’s power comes through our desire to avoid pain and run to comfort. What comfort are you most afraid of losing if you followed Jesus more fully? Where have you seen a temptation lose its grip once you decided obedience was worth the cost?
3. Peter says “enough already” to the old life, and then warns that your former friends will find your new life strange (the Greek root is *xenos*, the same “stranger” idea behind the whole series). Is there something in your life that “the time that is past suffices” applies to right now? And when has your faith made you a stranger to people who used to know you? How did you handle the odd looks, the “you’ve changed” comments, or the group text that went quiet?
4. Peter follows “the end is near” with prayer, not a survival plan. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Does your prayer life look like someone who knows how the Story ends?
5. Peter is quoting Proverbs 10:12 (“hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses,” ESV), and James 5:20 uses the same phrase. Read both. In a culture that exposes, cancels, and keeps receipts, what does it look like to “cover” someone’s sin without excusing it? Then the very next verse: hospitality “without grumbling.” Read Luke 14:12-14. When was the last time you had someone at your table who could not repay you?
6. Peter says “each” has received a gift and calls God’s grace “varied,” literally many-colored. Go around the circle and, one at a time, let the group name the gift they see in each person (not the person naming their own). Then ask: how has this group already encountered God’s grace through that gift? What would it look like to spend it more freely this fall?
7. Author, Bonhoeffer warned that whoever loves their dream of Christian community more than the real one in front of them ends up destroying it. Peter’s plan is a dinner table, not a bunker. Where are you holding out for an ideal community instead of loving the one God gave you? Read Hebrews 13:1-2. Who is the stranger you’ve been avoiding?