

Alaska 2024 (Part 2)

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Discussion Questions

1. Last week Susan and I spoke about our trip to Alaska in March with the Covenant Church's Town and Country Commission. It was so great to visit some of these small Alaskan Villages and the Covenant churches there. One great part about stepping into another culture is that it can give you new eyes to see your own culture. Have you ever had an experience that was really cross-cultural? What was it like returning home, did you see your home differently?
2. For many people in these Alaskan Villages life is difficult. It's hard to keep a family warm in the winter, and it's hard just to have enough food to get by. But even with all these difficulties people go on, they work hard, and they make it through. Your life may not be the same as theirs, but maybe their story of struggling and striving resonates with some part of your story. What are some ways that you have learned to trust in, and lean on, God when times are hard?
3. In Bethel Alaska, a group of churches have come together to care for the homeless population with a simple goal, "*No one should freeze to death in Bethel.*" Scammon Bay has a similar motto, "*No one starves in Scammon Bay.*" Feeding others, clothing others, giving shelter and rest, these things all seem like simple parts of living out the Christian faith, but in these villages can be the difference between life and death. Can you think of a motto that should exist for your town? What would it look like for a group of Christians to live out their faith in a really practical way?
4. In this kind of environment living out Jesus' command in Matthew 12:30-31 seems to be clearer. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*" The second is this: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" There is no commandment greater than these." How could you better strive to live out this commandment in the community God has put you in?