

Speaker 1 ([00:17](#)):

Hi, I am Karen Bergman and I'm here today to present. And my topic is going to be called a passion for you maybe. And I really love this discussion and I think it's an important one to have. I think it's cool that we get to have this discussion here at the deaf women's conference today. And I'm so happy to see you all here. Now, this topic is going to focus on Ephesians chapter three, verses one to 13. We're going to do a little bit of analyzing from the perspective of our deaf hearts. So this month is very important because we are honoring national women's history. So it's national women's history month. And I want to dedicate this presentation to honor my mom Lea SAR, Tom Bergman, and she is an attorney. She's a professional immigration attorney and she is an advocate for many women in the area of immigration. She advocates for women of diverse backgrounds and skin colors. Um, she works with women who are Asian, black, Mexican, so women of many different backgrounds and ethnicities. I'm really proud of her accomplishments and she's endured a lot of different things and many struggles she's experienced racism. Um, but she's been able to exhibit grace and kindness and courage through it all. Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([02:35](#)):

So in Ephesians chapter three, we're going to notice a couple different things, um, throughout this passage. So in this passage, Paul has been put into prison and while in prison he is con did he continue to, um, serve in his ministry or did he put it on hold? So we know that Paul really persevered and continued to serve and continued to do the work of preaching while in prison. So prison couldn't hold Paul back. And Paul's prayer was for, for all believers to feel courage, um, given by God and the Holy spirit to have a deeper understanding, a true deep understanding and knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ and the love that he has for people.

Speaker 1 ([03:44](#)):

And we are the readers here and this passes. It is a challenge for us to respond to the gospel story and look at the response of other believers back then, um, during Paul's time and how they responded to the gospel message. So in Ephesians chapter three, verses one to 13, there are a lot of different themes throughout this passage. And we're, as we study together, we're going to detect, um, a few of these different themes. So first of all, we know that God is wise since the beginning of time during the old Testament, when prophets were sharing the news that God had given to them, we know of his wisdom. Secondly, we know that Jesus Christ himself is the mystery that became revealed through Jesus Christ. And that was proven when the veil was torn after Jesus died, the gospel message was revealed to all. And the good news, the message of the gospel was finally revealed so that other people could access it as well.

Speaker 1 ([05:21](#)):

And then we also know that God has given the opportunity for all to become saved through Jesus Christ. We also know that God has a purpose for everyone to have a relationship with Christ. And this includes people of different backgrounds, skin, colors, uh, cultures, God has purposed in his heart for us all to be unified. So now we're going to move on to our discussion and reflection on this passage. And we're going to talk about how it relates to racism. So the passage talks about how Gentiles became joint heirs with Jewish people, and they could have access to the truth of the gospel as well. And the Jews and Gentiles became one body of believers together. So we think about how that applies to us. Now, there are people with many different experiences and backgrounds and cultures.

Speaker 1 ([10:10](#)):

Racism is simply spreading fear in many people's hearts. So for example, maybe some people have heard that Asian people have brought the Corona virus to America, but that's not true. And that caused a divide and it caused fear in people. So now we're studying about how the Jews and the Gentiles were joined together and become became one in Christ. And I hope that we take the time to study a little bit and to look in the Bible and to look at it from our perspective of how we can support and advocate for the Asian deaf community, not only here in America, but also in other countries.

Speaker 1 ([11:18](#)):

So the Gentiles and Jews became one body people of different backgrounds. I'm here today, Asian backgrounds and other people of other backgrounds are all one in Christ too. And if we really take the time to learn about different people and their history and culture and backgrounds, yeah. Then it'll help us to find commonalities amongst each other and also learn mutual respect for one another. And to honor each other. If we do that, then we'll become a stronger body of believers. If we educate ourselves and learn about our diverse backgrounds and cultures, okay, we need to offer these people help and support honor and listen to them and value and cherish them and show them the love of Jesus. Okay.

Speaker 1 ([12:54](#)):

And that will really reduce the suffering that they are enduring. So what this means for us is we need to be unified as the deaf Christian community. There's a word called Cohen pneumonia, and this word means community and it's applies to the deaf community, ended, applies to unity. So what about from the Asian deaf perspective? Okay. What is our knowledge and challenges that we've faced? Well, oppression, hatred, multiculturalism exposure to conflict and assimilation. Okay. Meaning that you're giving up part of yourself to adapt to the environment that you're placed in, or trying to maintain yourself through all these different environments. Autism ethnocentrism being involved in many different cultures, racism against people of color, just because God has made us unique. And he's given us all different skin colors, and he's created a variety in his creation, really. That was his vision for the world when he created it to make people look different and we're all valued and loved the same in his eyes.

Speaker 1 ([14:49](#)):

So now we're going to talk about the word crisis. And this is a really valuable word, um, in the Asian community right now, especially for the Chinese community, [inaudible] crisis gives us the opportunity to grow and not to break down and fall back. We're able to become stronger through crises and wiser. We can strengthen and build and build our community. We become better physically, mentally, and spiritually. So we can take advantage of the opportunity that that crisis gives us to really self-reflect and become stronger [inaudible]. So how has our deaf community been hurt? We've been hurt by autism, by negative attitudes and labels against us judge mental perspectives that limit us because people believe that we are limited because they're able to hear and speak. And we are not. I grew up in a background where I attended speech therapy. So I understand some of those experiences, but we'll hold off on that now about ethernet being ethnocentric, that means that a person has the attitude where they believe one race or culture is superior to others. [inaudible].

Speaker 1 ([16:29](#)):

And then we're going to talk about racism being against a person and looking down on them because of the color of their skin. And we can overcome and heal from all of these hurts that I just mentioned, the deaf community can overcome from these things. Okay. So it is Asian Pacific American heritage month,

which is a time to celebrate and show our pride, um, for the accomplishments that we've made and for all of the contributions and support to society that Asian Pacific Pacific Americans have made an education and community and artwork and science and the like, so now about Asian deaf culture, there's really no single definition for Asian deaf culture because it entails so much. There's so much information involved, including, um, American born Asian, deaf individuals, foreign born Asian deaf individuals who have come to America. So those groups, if people are included in Asian deaf culture, it includes different geographical locations, religions, regions, around the earth heritage. All of these things come together to make Asian deaf culture. This culture was developed from foreign born Asian deaf individuals who moved to the U S and started a life here in America and really became Americans later on. So they were able to learn and add to their culture by going to deaf into deaf schools and learning from their family and friends.

Speaker 1 ([18:31](#)):

So here in America, we have a goal. The goal that we want to communicate is to advocate for unity and for harmony amongst each other. Yeah. The highest value is human relationships. Okay. We value harmony amongst each other and face-to-face interaction [inaudible]. So now we're going to talk about Asian deaf heritage. This was passed down from our parents and from our friends. So some of us have, um, Asian parents. So we know that in our heritage, there are many different doctrines and different beliefs, different values that are related to family and heritage and education and different virtues that we hold that we've passed down. [inaudible]

Speaker 1 ([19:37](#)):

so, as our experience as Americans and Asian Americans, um, we have two different cultures that challenge us to keep and treasure the heritage that we have. So now we're going to talk about Asian culture and Asian deaf culture, and the difference between the two. So in Asian culture, public affection is not permitted knowledge and agent in Asian culture is highly honored and valued. They're skilled in their native language, and it is part of their identity. Typically there are three religions that are practice, including Confucianism Taylorism and Buddhism. And now we're going to talk about Asian deaf culture and compare the two. So an Asian, deaf culture affection is permitted and encouraged. We can hug and touch, and it's fine. A lot of the knowledge of Asian culture is missed amongst Asian, deaf individuals. And it's not their fault. It's just that it happens. It wasn't to them, or they just didn't know about it.

Speaker 1 ([20:52](#)):

Asian deaf individuals are skilled in their language in Asian sign language or ASL. And it's a part of their identity. Typically their religion would be Christianity and Catholicism. So these are some different paths to consider. It's important to be creative and supportive, to change your anger into creativity and to improve yourself. We want to work on our conflicts and break those divides that we have. We have to get rid of autism and sexism and racism, and really look for humanity and get rid of all of these negative labels that we put on each other. We have to really remember that we are human first.

Speaker 1 ([21:52](#)):

We have to remember to be gentle and have an open mind and respect and honor one another, be merciful and have empathy and extend that to others. There's wisdom that needs to be encouraged as well. So now here's some wisdom to share. The goal is to be successful, but not just successful, to be amazing. And to encourage one another encourage deaf women to be the best that they can be to learn from your experiences and to share your life experiences as you go, because we're responsible to show

and to share our experiences with the next generation. It's so important to have a mutual respect for one another to honor each other.

Speaker 1 ([23:01](#)):

We're all different, but we're all human. I want to share a poem from Layo to zoo. She's a Chinese philosopher. If there's to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there's to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there's to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors. And if there's to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home. If there's to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart. I thought that was beautiful. So now we're going to talk about reconciliation in second Corinthians chapter five, verse 18 to 20. This is such a good, perfect first that matches what we're talking about today.

Speaker 1 ([24:11](#)):

God has reconciled all of us to him through Jesus Christ. And he's given us the knowledge and the ministry with God, through Jesus Christ. He doesn't count our sins. We are completely forgiven and he's washed us clean. God has promised being that he has given to me and to all of you, the message of reconciliation. He is our stone, our cornerstone in our foundation. He's using us to tell others about Christ so that we can all be reconciled to him. Again, another scripture to consider as Romans 10. There's no difference between Jews and Greek. We are all the same in the Lord. And he has given us abundant blessings.

Speaker 1 ([25:43](#)):

We do not decide our value. God does, and people don't decide our value. God does first Corinthians chapter 12, verse 13, we've all been baptized by one spirit and have been made into one body. There's neither Jew nor Greek slave nor free. We are all given the same. Holy spirit acts chapter 10, verse 34 to 35, Peter saying he's giving a message. And he says, for this reason, it is true that God did not pick and choose and prefer any particular person, but prefers those who honor Christ. Thank you so much. And God bless you all. I hope you have a wonderful time during the conference. Goodbye.