2026-02-22 ICSC Core Message
Title: Nowhere, Nothing, Nobody
Scripture: Genesis 1:1

Introduction
Today, among “Nowhere, Nothing, Nobody,” we will focus on **Nothing**. God created the world out of nothing. When we think about Genesis 1:1, we need to consider what kind of thoughts God had. Think about it—when you were born, what could you feel as a baby? It is nothing, nowhere, nobody. Some women may understand this experience of giving birth—it begins from something completely natural, from nothing.

God created everything. What kind of heart did He have as He made the heavens and the earth? When a married couple has a child, there is tremendous joy. Then what was God’s heart like? God is the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end. We are living within that journey.

So what does God want from us? What do you think God is trying to do? I also grew up going to church without fully understanding. But as I realized the gospel, I began to understand that the reason we live on this earth is for world evangelization—to save the 237 nations and 5,000 tribes.

God has no conditions. We often think we need conditions—humanism, legalism—and believe that through these we grow closer to God. But we must ask ourselves honestly: did I truly begin from nothing? This is something you have probably experienced and realized.

Today I will not write on the board; I will share in English.

God has no conditions and nothing is required. Each part of His creation is perfect. God started the heavens, the earth, and the world from absolutely nothing.

I once went to a home meeting (Darakbang) at Deacon Maribel’s house in Anaheim, where about five or six people attended. After about four years of meeting together, I began to see gradual changes in their lives. One day I asked someone, “What has been the greatest blessing in your life?” One woman, who was already a Christian, said she was very thankful. After hearing the gospel, she said her life and time had completely changed. She experienced healing within God’s plan.

This is God’s creation and healing. She even shed tears, saying, “Pastor, thank you so much for coming all the way here to share the Word.” Some people asked why Pastor Mazda had not come and wondered if he had abandoned them. I explained that I am currently serving the third district, so visits may be occasional, but no one is abandoned—how could we abandon a multiethnic ministry?

God works starting with one person. When we meet believers in the field, we can see who God is. Recently, I am very thankful that we have begun Wednesday worship services in the third

district. I am especially grateful to Elder Yong-ho Lee. He never pressures me but always serves with humility and prepares everything so ministry can continue. I am learning a lot through this.

God actually prefers when I have nothing of my own. Do you know why? Because God has established me as a person, just as He has established you. But it is God who leads. If I rely on my own thoughts and experiences, the message will not be conveyed properly. Recently, I was asked to prepare the second message, and I had already been holding onto the title “Nowhere, Nothing, Nobody.” Last week’s core message was “No Way.”

I realized that this was what God wanted me to share today, so I turned to Genesis 1:1. Truly, only God—His creation—He is everything. There are things we have not personally experienced yet, so we must honestly confess, “God, this is my fault. I did not understand. Please teach me in the field so I can understand.” I try to live with a heart of service because the answer is always in God.

When listening to others, you may spend an hour hearing their struggles. But when we go out to evangelize, what do we have? We have the gospel of Christ. Everyone knows Jesus Christ, yet do they truly understand?

One Thursday, a woman called wanting to meet Pastor Mazda. She was a sincere Christian but could not understand the statement “Jesus is the Christ.” She said, “Isn’t Jesus just one person called Christ? Isn’t that enough?” I explained using identity as an example—just as I am Mazda, but also a missionary and pastor. Likewise, Jesus has the complete identity of Christ. God’s identity is perfect—Alpha and Omega, nothing more is needed. When we acknowledge this and listen to the Word through Scripture and our senior pastor, we realize how certain God’s Word is. That is why we come here.

So what should we do in our faith? Two months ago, I shared in district worship and with the Spanish ministry about 1 Corinthians 13:13—faith, hope, and love. How do we recognize love? Through faith and hope. I have known the gospel movement for nearly 30 years, and I firmly held onto this: Jesus is the Christ, the solution to all problems. I even received seven years of training in Korea. But despite that, ministry, prayer life, and faith life were extremely difficult.

Why? Because after faith comes hope—but I had no joy. How about your life? Are you truly joyful? This must be healed. Without this healing, no matter how loudly we proclaim Christ, it will not connect. The passage says faith, hope, and love, but the greatest is love. The Word is the covenant, and the covenant is love. Through the Word, God gives faith and hope, and love is revealed in our hearts.

Then believers can understand, and I can understand. Through the message, people should feel, “This person truly believes God. I have hope too. I can live.” And beyond that, they should feel genuine gratitude toward the pastor or missionary who shares the Word.

That is why realizing that I have nothing is important. When this realization comes, thanksgiving flows naturally: “God, thank You.” That itself is an experience and power we must receive. A newborn baby has nothing—nothing and nobody—yet the mother provides milk. Jochebed,

Moses' mother, gave not only physical milk but gospel milk. God's love is not just physical love; it is agape love given by God.

Job said, "I came with nothing, and I will leave with nothing." That is truthful and honest. When I heard that, I realized we hold onto many unnecessary things. We must repent, let go, and return to only Christ—evangelism, missions, and the gospel. This is the message of "Nothing." You all know this.

We must return to the fundamentals—personal repentance and truly asking whether what we are doing is God's work. When we are with God, He will truly give answers. We must wait—each person's calling is different. God's gospel movement is walking together, holding hands with people of all nations.

Everything has a schedule—yours, mine, and our church's. What heart will we have, and what answers will we receive from God? Each of us must deeply think about the path we must go and the work we must do according to God's timing.

Ultimately, we are each alone before God. Through the time called "me," we must discover how God will work. That requires personal time of conversation with God. Many people simply say, "God will give," without thought. But God has a timetable. There is a beginning and an end—this is the timetable given to us.

I am always thankful that through our church—pastors, elders, remnants, and multiethnic members—we can enjoy summit time together. How pleased God would be when Immanuel Church of Southern California stands as one in this way. Amen.