



Culture & the Gospel, Short-Term Missions



Week 6 Preview

The Gospel in Cultural Context

- Week 4: Communicate via stories
 - What is God's story? (may use [C2C](#) or [answersingenesis](#))
 - What is your story? (personal testimony)
- Week 5: Cross-Cultural Communication
(Building relationships)
- Today:
 - Communicating the Gospel
 - Short-term missions



Week 6 Discussion Questions

- Get in groups of 2-3 where only one of you has been on a short-term mission trip (1 week to 2 months).
 1. Start by sharing your experiences – when, where and whom you served.
 2. What did you do when you were there?
 3. How long were you there? (Was it too long, not long enough?)
 4. What went well? (How God used you/your team, experiences,...)
 5. How did **you** change from this experience?
 6. What would you change? (e.g. preparation (on your part or receiving team's part), perspective, activities, location,...)
 7. What advice would you give to someone considering a short-term missions trip?



Communicating the Gospel

- All cultures can be categorized as predominantly guilt-based, shame-based or fear-based (with regard to God or spiritual realm)
- From M. in China:
 - *“I’m learning to use the 3D gospel - that Christ saved us*
 - *not just **from guilt to innocence** (which the west focuses on),*
 - *but also **from shame to honor** (very Chinese which they connect with)*
 - *and **from fear to power** (a facet that speaks to Tibetans and other fear-based religions).*
 - *Please pray as I am able to share with different seekers each week.”*

From David Platt’s [sermons](#)



Communicating the Gospel

- Read Gen. 3.6-11
- We see the three consequences of sin (for A&E and modern man):
 - We are **guilty** before God (They saw they were naked before God.)
 - We have **shame** before God (They sewed fig leaves and hid from God. Previously they had no shame and walked with God in the garden.)
 - We are **afraid** of God. (In Gen. 2 they enjoyed God's presence, now they are terrified.)



Communicating the Gospel

From Guilt to Innocence

- How does Christ (the Gospel) address/remedy our guilt?
 - Romans 8.1 “Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** *for those who are in Christ Jesus.*”
 - Mark 2. 1-12 Jesus says to the paralytic: “Your sins are forgiven.”
 - Jn 8.1-11. Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. (Tell the story.)
 - There is a paradox here. Jesus is passionately committed to upholding the Justice of God. He's not light on sin here. He says, let's take the law to the next step. Only those who are guiltless can throw a stone. She is face to face with the only one who can condemn her. He then says, "neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more." Where is the justice of God here? It comes weeks later when her sins are placed on him.



Communicating the Gospel

From Shame to Honor

- How does Christ (the Gospel) address/remedy our shame?
- In these cultures people are more likely to see things as shameful or honorable instead of as right or wrong, e.g. Middle East (*reading*)
- Also cultures where it's important to “save face” (not to bring dishonor on self or family)
- When Jesus walked the earth, many pictures of shame in that society – those who were poor, blind, oppressed,...
- Jesus released them from their condition (healed the blind, lepers, lame,...) so they could face all of society again.
- See Luke 5.12-14 (Also Jn. 8.1-11)



Communicating the Gospel

From Fear to Power

- How does Christ (the Gospel) address/remedy our fear?
- Often find this in animistic cultures where they worship nature and spirits associated with nature.
- 1 John 4.16-19 “... *perfect love drives out fear.*”
 - because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears does not know the (perfect) love of God.
- Jesus assuaged people’s fear by showing he has power over
 - Nature (Mark 4.35-41)
 - Demons (Mark 5.1-20)
 - Illness (Mark 5.25-34)
 - Death (Mark 5.21-43)



Short-Term Missions

Class Discussion

- What are the benefits/positives of short-term missions?
- What are the short-comings/negatives?
- How should one prepare?
- Who should go?



Week 6 Panel Discussion

Three who have been on short-term missions trips (Amanda Chang, Alex Chee, David Miyatake)

- First, introduce yourself along with - When/where did you go and what was the purpose of your trip?
- What difficulties did you experience?
- How did **you** change from this experience?
- Would you recommend other people to participate in a short-term missions trip?
- What advice would you have for anyone who is considering a short-term missions trip?
- How do you think it would be different to be a career missionary in the same location?

