

Proclaim His Glory Among the Nations!

Sermon Notes, February 4, 2018
Whyte Ridge Baptist Church
Psalm 96

"Declare His glory among the nations! His marvelous deeds among all the peoples!" (Ps. 96:3, ESV)

"You come of the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve," said Aslan, "And that is both honour enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar, and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor on earth. Be Content." C.S. Lewis, Prince Caspian

Introduction

Because the Thai read the Bible from an Asian perspective, they may be able to help us see things in God's Word that we naturally miss because of our Western perspective. This is especially important because Hebrew culture was more Asian than Western. One way Asian culture resembles Hebrew culture that we tend to miss is in the area of honour and shame (related to face and dignity). This is not to negate our traditional understanding of Scripture, but to give us a bigger picture of sin, repentance, grace and salvation. And God.

Three questions about an Honour-Shame lens:

1. What do we mean by an "Honour-Shame perspective" on the Good News of Jesus?

2. Why is an Honour-Shame perspective important for us?

(In sharing the gospel)

(For our own Christian walk with Christ)

3. What are some implications for an Honour-Shame perspective on our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ?



"We are a people called out of darkness to show forth the glory of God."

A.W. Tozer

"It's a great philosophical concept, Oog, but is the world really ready for 'human dignity'?"

Study and Discussion Questions

1. How do our lives (and words!) proclaim the greatness and honour of the Lord to those around us?
2. What other H/S applications can you think of? There are many related to how we treat each other, as well as our approach to the Father.
3. The Good News of Jesus Christ also challenges our usual notions of honour and shame in at least three ways:
 - a. Some might think it is an excuse to hide our sinfulness so that we don't feel shame. What is wrong with that approach? (Think of Terry's graphic illustration of covering the yoke last week as he talked about 1 John 1.)
 - b. Some might think that we shouldn't feel shame, but there are times when it is appropriate: It is part of God's warning system for when our moral lives are not in sync with God's design. How should we respond to that shame?
 - c. In John 5:44, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of his day for competing with each other for honour, doing all they could to get honour from one another. What does he say they should be doing instead?
4. How could a *biblical* understanding of honour increase a person's humility rather than (as we might expect) cause the person to become more arrogant?
5. Is there shame you are carrying which needs God's healing? Remember there are three sources of shame: Things we've done wrong (our own sin), things that have been done to us (sin of others) and things from our identity which mark us as "different" (family history, physical characteristics, and so on). How can we find freedom from the shame of each of these sources? (See 1 John 1:6-10, 2:28; 3:1-3; 3:13-14; 3:19-24; 4:4-6; 4:10-11; 4:17-18. Actually, all of 1 John!)
6. If a brother or sister in Christ is dealing with shame, how can we help them in finding healing in Christ? (Keep in mind the different sources of shame, which need to be dealt with differently.)
7. Eph. 4:1-3 says, "I ... urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." What can this verse tell us about living our lives more honourably?

The Bible views the Good News of Jesus through several lenses, such as Harmonious relationships, Wholeness and healing, Life, Freedom, Wisdom/Intellect, Power, Honour, and Moral living (Goodness). We invite you to the **LifePath Seminar** on "Sharing Your Faith Cross-Culturally" on Sunday, March 11, at 12:30. Contact Tim Noble for details or to register (204.881.6011 or tim.noble@omfmail.com).

You are also invited to the Family Meal on March 4 at 12:30. Our topic will be "Acting Justly, Loving Mercy: Walking Humbly Together with Our God".

For more information on these topics, you may want to look at:

Tim's blog: themultifacetedgospel.blogspot.ca

www.honorshame.com (Jayson Georges)

Books: The Global Gospel (Werner Mischke), The 3D Gospel (Jayson Georges), Meaningful Evangelism (Andy Smith), Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes (Richards and O'Brien)