



Zikomo (Pronounce: zi ko moe) Translation: Thank you

Zikomo Gombile (Pronounce: zi ko moe gom bee lee) Translation: Thank you very much

Devotional Thought– Motive Transformation

A slide show of your life

The refining process

God sees the _____ in us and doesn't throw us away!

Last week we discussed classifying our motives into three categories: fundamental, secondary, and defective. You were asked to reflect this week on your motives. How was this exercise helpful to you? Discouraging?

Throughout Scripture God is using and shaping the people who were least qualified:

Moses, David, Jonah, Paul...

Your probably familiar with the phrase: "God loves you just the way you are, but he loves you too much to let you stay that way."

-meaning is God sees our defective hearts, chooses to use us despite them, and works to rid us of defects.

3 Portraits of God in Motive Transformation:

- 1. John 15:1-2
- 2. Hebrews 12:4-13
- 3. Isaiah 1:25

Motives are changed through: 2 Cor 3:18

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Do you allow God to shape your motives? Are you able to say, "God, I will do what you want me to do and be what you want me to be"?

Thoughts on Culture & Culture Shock

Culture as exciting

Culture as frightening

Culture is "a set of beliefs, customs, activities, institutions, and language patterns that a particular group of people adheres to."

Examples of American Culture:

How does culture affect the way we live?

Culture as a learned behavior

The key to unlocking a new culture is:

The Don'ts:

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The Do's:

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When Cultures Clash

When two separate cultures encounter one another through an individual's experience we call this-

Here are some examples:

1. **Food** – After several weeks on site you have become very close to one of the local Christians. He or she asks if they can cook a dish of honor for you. You humbly accept the invitation. You enjoy the meal and after several bites inquire what you are eating. Your face turns green when it is revealed it is dog meat!

2. **Personal Space** - You arrive at the airport in your host city and the local Christians have come to greet you. You see them from a distance and are so excited to see them. As you begin to greet one another you notice they will not let go of your hand and continue to look into your eyes. You then pile into the back of a pickup truck and sit on top of your new friends!

3. **Public Talking** - You have been serving on a mission team in another culture where your team must often walk to the work site. As at home, you often laugh and joke with each other along the way. At the end of your third week you start to realize that no one else is as loud as your team when they are in public!

Cultural Collisions are normal occurrences when a person from one culture enters another culture. When the new culture is entered, the guest brings with him/her a life of experience, perceptions, values, and ways of doing things, many of which will not fit into the host environment. *Cultural Collisions* will occur. How will I as a guest respond to what is new and, possibly, inconvenient?

Culture shock:

Culture Shock is a psychological reaction to cultural collisions. One way to understand culture shock is to view your trip in stages.

· **Stage One** is the "Eager Expectation" stage, and actually occurs before you leave. Though there may be some fear, most of your emotions are optimistic, and you are greatly anticipating your trip.

· **Stage Two** is the "Everything is Beautiful" stage and begins upon arrival. There is a sense of excitement and pleasure. The food is exciting and the people seem very friendly.

· **Stage Three**, "Everything is Awful Stage", hits and you become anxious, restless, impatient, and disappointed.

· Then comes the **Stage Four** "Everything is OK" stage when you view both the negative and positive aspects of the new culture in a balanced manner. The natural response to culture shock is to pull the covers up and stay in bed or to wander off by yourself and disappear for the day, and to gripe at everyone else.

DON'T DO ANY OF THE ABOVE!

Hindrances to Identification:

1. Thinking Mono-culturally (not seeing the validity of other cultures) - This could be as simple (or complex) as a person being reared in a North American rural setting and not being able to identify with those from a more urban setting. It is very challenging for people of these two settings to understand and appreciate the lifestyle and thinking of those in the other group. Our own “worlds” can become tinted by the cultural “glasses” we wear.

2. Thinking Ethnocentric - Ethnocentricity means believing that one's own ethnic group and its ways of operating are superior. This happens when a person analyzes and judges another culture from her own viewpoint. It is problematic when one is dogmatic that their way is right and better! Ethnocentricity results in a difficulty to appreciate and accept another culture and its people. Ultimately, it can close the ears of our listeners to the message we are carrying.

3. Thinking Selfishly - When I begin to put my needs and my wants above the norms of the new culture. I begin to gripe about the food or showers or transportation until it is satisfactory to me.

DEVELOPING SKILLS IN HANDLING CULTURE SHOCK

- Know that the new environment will be different and that it will cause difficulties for each worker in varying degrees.
- Research your field site thoroughly so that you can be better prepared for what is ahead. Focus on culture, not just statistics and facts.
- Keep the focus on others (I Corinthians 9:19-23), not on yourself.
- Affirm the validity of every culture. There are equally valid ways of meeting most of life's needs.
- Recognize that Christ not only lived within a culture but also integrated Christianity into the context of Jewish culture. He identified physically (Heb. 2:14ff), socially (John 2:1-10), and emotionally (John 11:35). He spoke their language, heard their music, and loved their people.
- Recognize that God/Christ can relate within the context of culture. Jesus communicated with stories from within a cultural setting; he demonstrated truths through cultural actions (foot washing). (Paul also adapted culturally—Acts 16:3, 21:17-30).
- Meet new people – a new friend can tell you things about a culture that you would spend months learning otherwise.
- Try new things – If you try new things gradually and persistently, you will enjoy the new culture more quickly.
- Give yourself periods of rest and thought – adapting to a new culture can be hard work! Take time to rest and reflect.
- Write – writing in a diary or some other medium can release tension and frustration as well as provide insights for personal growth
- Learn the verbal language – part of feeling “out of control” is not knowing how to communicate. Learn numbers and a few basic phrases.

Don't:

- Write or call home and complain
- Go to bed
- Quit your work
- Criticize the work, church, or missionary
- Repress it. Be sure to share it with the group.

Fundraising Suggestions:

1. Create a newsletter to send out to your contributors. People often find these interesting and it is also a non-threatening way to remind everyone to contribute to your effort.
2. Talk about your trip with everyone and get people excited! You'll be surprised who will catch your vision and contribute.

Other suggestions:

Homework

1. Special Meeting- THIS FRIDAY: SUZI IS COMING!!!
We will start at 6pm.
2. Fund Raising- Have you sent out your thank you notes!!!???
Have tried putting together a newsletter?
Have you tried a yard sale?
3. Passports. **Have you sent yours off yet?** You also need to turn in 2 copies of your passport to Jeremy. Also make one copy for yourself to keep in your luggage.
4. Continue reading "The Road to Lumbadzi". You will get another book, "Walking Among Gentle People" soon!
5. Next meeting: same time, same place (next Wednesday Night).
6. You will be notified when the vaccinations are available.
7. Read this week's article on the website