



3. PENTECOST: CROSS-CULTURAL EVENT



What does language do in cross-cultural relationship?
 What did Pentecost achieves in multi-lingual context?
 How can we use different languages in ministry context?

Sharing Time (10 min)

-Share with your group about your hobby or things you are passionate about.

Review the previous study (5 min)

-Joshua's challenge

Article- "Three possible ways forward"

It is common to identify three broad possibilities for Christian response to inter-faith encounter. The exclusivist possibility sees salvation as coming exclusively through Christ or through the Church and views the adherents of other religions as living in error and in need of conversion to Christ and incorporation into the life of the church. The inclusivist position agrees that salvation comes through Christ but recognises Christ as being present incognito within other faith. The pluralist position recognises as many paths to salvation as there are religions and urges tolerance and humility in the light of the mystery of God...

These three options are more like tendencies than rigid categories in current theological reflection. Each case can be argued most persuasively and each needs to be heard at its point of strength by those seeking to develop a theology for inter-religious dialogue. The views of many thinkers do not fit easily into any one of these categories. There is a danger that, once having formulated a typology like this, we allow it to shape our thinking and close the way to as yet unforeseen options.

("Living with the Neighbour who is different" Keith Rowe p.16-24)

Discussion with Video Clip

Movie "Terminal" (30 min)

Framework for Group Discussion

1. Background
2. Cultural Groups in the story
3. Conflicts and Relationships
4. Cross-Cultural implication for us

Background: Language issue

- > What is the role of language in multicultural society?
- > Is language the most important element to build a relationship?

Cultural Groups

- > Identify cultural groups in the story.

- > Other than nationality, can you identify sub-cultures in the story?

Conflicts and Relationships

- > Identify conflicts: between Frank, Viktor and Milodragbich.
- > What did Victor achieved by miss-translating a word?

Cross-Cultural Approach

- > What are the requirements to be a good interpreter?
- > What does the last conversation between Frank and supervisor talks about the foundation of Cross-cultural relationship?

Discussion with Bible Story

Pentecost: Cross-cultural event(30 min)

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. **2** As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. **3** They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. **4** Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." **5** But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. **6** The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **7** Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." **8** So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why it was called Babel--because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.(NIV)

Acts 2:1-13

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit

and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"

8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" **13** Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." (NIV)



Questions for Group Discussion

Background: Who was Joshua?

--> Read the Bible readings from Gen 11 and Acts 2.

--> Why God confused human language?

Cultural Groups

--> Identify different cultural groups and languages

--> What was the message people understood with their own language?

Conflicts and Relationships

--> Does language create conflicts?

--> What did Pentecost make a difference in that conflict?

Cross-Cultural Approach

--> For peaceful coexistence, should we have one common language?

--> How can we use different languages in cross-cultural ministry context?

Question Time (15 Min)

Next Study: Tue. 18th April, 1pm or 7:30pm(Hybrid)

Study 4. Philip's Cross-cultural Message(Acts 8)

With movie "School Ties"

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