

The Good News through New Eyes

**How the Bible speaks to every
culture on Earth**

Session 2: Reading the Bible in its
worldview context

Does a fish know
that it's wet?

Reading the Bible with Ancient Eyes

*"We can easily forget that Scripture is a
foreign land and that reading the Bible is
a cross-cultural experience."*

E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien, Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes:
Removing Cultural Blindspots to Better Understand the Bible

Who Am I? Concept of “Self”

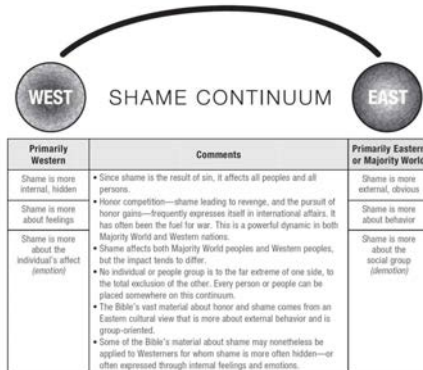
“I” am defined by my family and my community

“I think, therefore, I am”

becomes

“I am, because we are; and since
we are, therefore I am.”

-Andrew Mbuvi



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The ancient Middle East was characterized by the pivotal cultural value of honor and shame.

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The Bible grew out of ancient Middle Eastern culture.

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The Bible's pivotal cultural value is honor and shame.

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People and peoples are dying to know how the Bible, and specifically the life and kingdom of Jesus Christ, speaks healing to their shame.

Idea of “Limited Good” in the Bible

The Bible challenges the concept of “limited good” by teaching “the abundant life”

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

(Philippians 4:19 ESV)

Jesus feeds the multitudes

“Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ... Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

(Matthew 14:13–21 ESV)

But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

(Matthew 14:13-21 ESV)

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied.

(Matthew 14:13-21 ESV)

And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children."

(Matthew 14:13-21 ESV)

The Bible challenges
the concept of “limited
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“the abundant life”

Concept of “Face” in the Bible

Two Parts of “Face” in the Bible

First, humanity's shame before God is the result
of sin and is expressed by turning away and
hiding from the face of God.

Second, humanity's redemption and healing
from shame comes when people turn to, and are
given the honor of looking upon the face of God.

Part of God's plan of
redemption is to restore
our "Face"

"And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-
drinking and went into the palace garden, but
Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen
Esther, for he saw that harm was determined
against him by the king. And the king returned
from the palace garden to the place where they
were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the
couch where Esther was. And the king said, "Will
he even assault the queen in my presence, in my
own house?" As the word left the mouth of the
king, *they covered Haman's face.*"

(Esther 7:7-8 ESV)

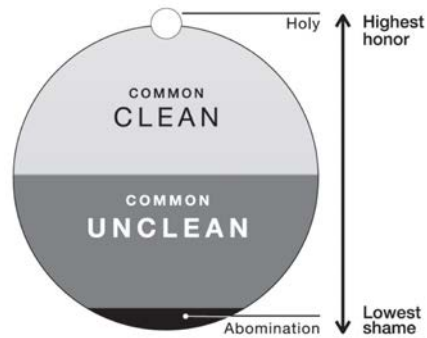
"But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my
glory, and the lifter of my head."
(Psalms 3:3 ESV)

Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces
shall never be ashamed
(Ps 34: 5)

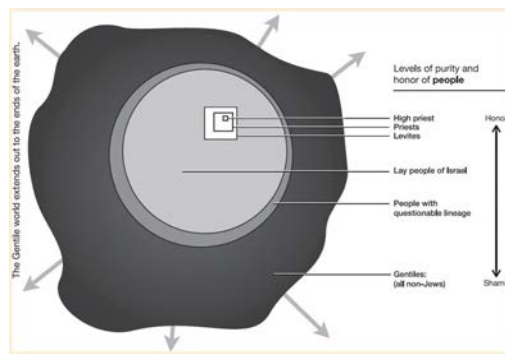
May God be gracious to us and bless us and
make his face to shine upon us
(Ps 67: 1)

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we
may be saved!
(Ps 80: 3)

The Value of Purity in the Bible



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Jesus touches a leper

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

(Luke 5:12-14 ESV)

The Leper's Shame

Deliberately make himself un-attractive

Announce his condition publicly

He was to be segregated

This is more than a
healing story.
This is a salvation story.
