

Hello. /We will begin the 7th lecture on missiology. /Today we will be studying **Chapter 12, the Role of Culture in Missions**. /With the help of cultural anthropology, missions has been able to bear more efficient fruit.

/In this chapter, we will take a look at the role of culture in missionary activity /and the ways in which we can give shape to it. /We'll see how culture, which is closely related to communication methodology, contributes to gospel missions.

/1. Culture's Contribution to Missions. /We need to have a deep interest in how culture contributes to missions. /In order for us to preach the gospel of Christ to other cultures, /we need to understand the language, habits, worldviews, and religions of the culture. /We need to declare that Jesus is Savior.

/We must plant churches and train Christians /so that the church that "receives" becomes a church that "gives." /Missions happens in the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit makes the person come to a decision of faith, /and he gathers believers to form a Christian community.

/Christian missions share a close relationship with the cultural changes that happen in the mission field. /We can come up with more efficient ways for gospel missions /when we understand cultural change in the mission field.

/In order to do this, we must study the culture of the mission field /and come up with appropriate methods for missions.

/(1) Studying the Culture of the Mission Field. /In the past, people rejected the mission policies of Western missionaries. /This reaction was caused by the missionaries forcing their culture on the people.

/Due to the lack of understanding the culture, missionaries emphasized the superiority of their culture. /When people encounter new cultures, they find themselves in a culture shock.

/When missionaries handle every situation according to the standards of their culture, /people will not react positively. /Therefore, it is important to study the culture of the mission field, learn their way of thinking, /and come up with ways to spread the gospel.

/(2) Discovering How to do Gospel Missions. /Understanding the culture of the mission field must come first /if we want to be more effective in missions. /People of the mission field receive a culture shock when they come into contact with new cultures.

/To minimize this effect, we need to have a way of understanding cultures. /By understanding cultures, we can form homogeneous

groups, /and these groups function as passageways for mutual exchange.

/Coming up with missionary policies after gaining a proper understanding of the local culture /will be helpful for missions. /A correct understanding of culture leads to the discovery of methods for gospel missions, /and it leads to the spread of the gospel.

/For example, /Korean families are male-dominated. /By understanding this culture, we are able to come up with more effective evangelism strategies. /Understanding the culture of the mission field offers ideas for effective preaching of the gospel. /Understanding culture allows us to come up with these methods for missions.

/(3) Presenting Ways for Effective Communication. /We need the help of cultural anthropology if we want to understand the culture of the mission field. /By understanding the religions, customs, social structure, and other aspects of the mission field, /we can come up with appropriate measures for evangelism.

/Therefore, missionaries must first quickly learn the language of the mission field /and apply it in their missionary work. /When the gospel is preached, people /accept the gospel, reject the gospel, or compromise with the gospel.

/Apart from acceptance and rejection, compromise exists. /This is an unconventional element that we see when people accept other cultures.

/2. The Church's Role in Cultural Change. /Christianity is a religion of change. /All believers experience transformation, /which happens in our vertical relationship with God /and our horizontal relationship with people.

/Jesus Christ's work of redemption altered the history of mankind. /Religious transformation brings about ethical transformation in man. / This in turn changes the whole person.

/Thus, wherever Christianity is introduced, there is change. /Those who accept Christ are changed, /and the communities of these changed people experience change as well.

/Furthermore, there are social and cultural changes. /Christianity shares a close relationship with cultural change.

/First, religion's cultural invasion. /Second, in their appearance, some religions may appear to be Christianity, but they are religions of idols. /Third, Christian communities appear.

/Therefore, when missionaries go out to spread the gospel, /they are oftentimes criticized for bringing their cultures with them. /However, it is obvious that missions change the culture of the mission field. It is a phenomenon that always follows.

/Among themselves, Western intellectuals criticize each other's religious colonial policies. /This phenomenon was widely seen after WWII.

/Their errors of the past surfaced as criticism of missionaries. /Proclaiming the gospel to other cultures /leads to the formation of new Christian communities, /which then brings about new changes to society and culture.

/(1) Cultural Change and the Church's Role. /All cultures continue to change. /There may be a difference in the rate of change, but change happens nonetheless. /There are two sides to cultural change: persistence and change.

/These two sides continue to interact with one another. /Cultural change does not happen because of the need for change. /Change occurs because of interaction with outside sources.

/When a culture goes through the process of coming into contact with another culture, is assimilated into another culture, /or forms a new, third culture, there is cultural change.

/But taking into account that fact that cultural change happens within people's hearts, /Christian communities are left with an important mission. /In other words, Christian communities function as cultural innovators who push for cultural change.

/Their faith gives them a sense of the need for cultural change. /Through evangelism, this change spreads /throughout society.

/(1) Cultural Change and the Role of Missionaries. /Newly formed Christian communities that are the fruit of missions /function as the light and salt of society. /This Christian community maintains its relationship with God /while it brings about social and cultural changes.

/This is the role of missionaries. /Missionaries must avoid being judgmental of the values of the culture of the mission field, /for they

must preach the gospel regardless of culture. /But it is impossible to disregard culture when evangelizing.

/Thus, we must be able to draw a line between analyzing the values of a culture and criticizing them. /Missionaries cannot help but analyze or assess the values of a culture. /However, if they are consumed by a sense of superiority of their own culture, they encounter problems.

/When churches form in the culture of the mission field, /there is the urgent problem of translating the Bible to the language of the mission field. /Through this Bible, the people learn new things about the Bible culture. /As a result, the Christian communities undergo much cultural change.

/Rather than sticking with the cultural patterns that they practiced before they believed in Christ, /the people are introduced to new patterns of behavior /that they should follow as Christians living in that social culture. /Missionaries supply the people with new resources /and ideas. /This is the evangelism of experience.

/As representatives of Christ, missionaries spread the gospel of Christ. However, they are not innovators who lead the movement of cultural change. /The new information that they provide brings new vitality to the church, /and Christian communities interpret the gospel in the light of the word.

/Wherever the gospel enters, change always follows. /Through this change, new communities are formed. /The relationship between culture and missions always persists, /and because of this relationship, missions is able to move forward in the right direction.

/Part 4, Mission Strategy.

/Chapter 13, Missions and Mission Strategy. /To carry out Jesus' Great Commission, /many missionaries in the history of Christianity have devoted themselves to preaching the gospel.

/To spread the gospel to every tribe and to the ends of the earth, /we need to bring the best plan that we have /and come up new mission methods. /In modern times, we use the term "mission methods," /which we can also call "mission strategies."

/We must continue to make an effort to find more appropriate methods. /But the Bible teaches us that our motivation for missions is the work of the Holy Spirit. /Christians who have been empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit /have been able to more efficiently spread the gospel.

/1. The Need for Mission Strategy. / (1) The Concept of Strategy.

/A strategy is a plan of action taken by an institution or group to meet a certain goal.

/We must always be thinking about coming up with strategies and have an interest in various operations. /Mission strategy takes place when we proclaim the gospel of Christ /and take part in prayer and biblical studies. /Mission strategies hold these three elements.

/First, they are Bible-centered. /In order to do the work of Christ, we must hold the word of Christ as our standard. /Strategies that are not based on the Bible are not true strategies.

/Second is efficiency. /In order to more effectively make use of limited resources, we need to think of methods that are efficient. /When it comes to efficiency in mission strategy, human resources are more important than material resources. /Next, it is important that we effectively utilize material resources.

/Third is adaptability. /We need to come up with methods that are applicable in today's time. /Because things change with each passing day, we must come up with appropriate measures.

/Methods that ignore the issue of adaptability lag behind the times. /To obtain effective results, we need to come up with flexible methods that can work in multiple situations.

/(2) Setting a Goal for Missions. /We need to have a goal for missions if we want to come up with a mission strategy. /Every plan needs a goal, /a goal that is based on biblical principles.

/We can look at this matter in two ways. /First, "faithfulness to God." /Our goal for missions must be founded on our faithfulness to God. /Whoever is faithful to God has a greater interest in the results of his investment.

/As we saw in the Parable of the Talents, /the good and faithful servant is faithful to God, and he has a deep interest in the results of his work. /If we want to correctly know the purpose of God, /we must first know the will of God.

/We must obey the Absolute God who shows us his love, /redeems us, /and guides us with his Holy Spirit.

/Second, our goal must be based on our “love for people.” /The basis of our goal for missions is faithfulness to God /and our love for people. /We people who are created in the image of God, /must love our fellow human beings /and preach the gospel to them /to make them people of Christ.

/The most important part of setting a goal for missions /is keeping a proper vertical relationship with God /and a proper horizontal relationship with people.

/2. Obstacles to Mission Strategy. /Obstacles block our way when we try to come up with mission strategies. /We need to overcome these obstacles and efficiently work in missions.

/(1) The Persistence of Tradition and Culture. /The two sides of culture are persistence and change, /but there is a tendency to be too tied up with persistence. /When setting mission strategies, /we tend to be overly caught up with tradition and culture.

/We fear change /and insist on the things of old. /This creates obstacles for setting strategies for missions. /Change isn't always good, /but because missions include new adventures, /we should aim for change.

/(2) The Lack of Missions Training. /Many churches and seminaries pay little attention to missions training. /Seminaries are not taking part in passionate and effective missions training.

/The lack of missions training stunts the growth of the church. /Missionaries are entering the mission field without receiving any professional training.

/(3) Setting the Wrong Mission Strategies. /When mission strategies are made based on the desires of man /and not according to appropriate standards, we run into problems.

/Mission strategies must be built on the basis of our relationship with God and relationship with people. /But when human desire becomes the basis, then we cannot help but encounter problems.

/Human needs are important, /but they cannot be the fundamental reason. /The reason is human needs are the basis for human greed.

/Fourth, obstacles to missions. **/(4) Misusing the Ultimate Goal.** /To “make disciples of all nations” is God's ultimate purpose, /which is the most important part of mission strategy.

/Another important part of mission strategy is /treating obedience to God's command as our greatest goal. /However, in today's time, we say that our greatest objective is to do "good work."

/We see the appearance of such tendencies that destroy the absolute nature of missions. /People emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit, but they put a stronger emphasis on human desire. /By putting human thoughts above the work of the Holy Spirit, /we develop misconceptions.

/3. The Principles of Mission Strategy. /Mission strategy must always be biblical. /Mission strategy must revolve around biblical principles. /We need to find the model for mission strategy in the Bible.

/We can find it in Jesus' teachings, /which are related to the basic laws of farming. **/(1) The Law of Sowing.** /We find the Parable of the Sower, /which is also called the Parable of the Soil. /Out of the four types of soil, three failed to bear fruit.

/Good soil is the only type to bear fruit. /In this parable, we see that the person who sows the seed is one person. /He also uses the same method when he sows the seed.

/Despite this, only one type of soil yielded fruit. Why is this so? /No matter how good the seed is, if it is sown in a bad place, it cannot bear good fruit.

/Therefore, before we sow the seed, we must first inspect the soil. /Good soil produces fruit 30, 60, and 100 times what was sown, /and this fulfills the goal. /When it comes to mission strategy, we must consider the law of sowing.

/We do not sow in any random field, /but we need to sow in places that will produce.

/(2) The Law of Cutting Branches. /We need to make sure to cut the branches. /The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree refers to this law. /In its appearance, the fig tree looked like it had grown well, /but it did not bear fruit.

/Consequently, there was some strife between the vinedresser and the owner. /The vinedresser, who was attached to this tree, requested that the owner give him one more year.

/The focus here is on the tree's fruit. /Because the tree did not bear fruit, /the tree had no value in its existence. The owner therefore

wanted to cut it down and dispose of it. /A tree that is given plenty of time to bear fruit /but does not bear fruit should be cut down and thrown away.

/This parable shows us the importance of a tree's fruit. /A tree that does not produce fruit after a certain period of time should be cut down.

/(3) The Law of the Harvest. /Jesus, in his teachings, often talks about the harvest. /He especially says that the workers for the harvest are few, /that in order to succeed in farming, there needs to be more farmers.

/Therefore, among the principles of mission strategy, the most important thing is to have plenty of workers. /Workers in plenty are necessary for corresponding missions work to happen. /This also allows us to harvest in multiple ways.

/4. Modern Society's Mission Strategy. /How are we to come up with and implement mission strategies in modern society? /We need to have mission strategies that are appropriate for today's times. /We must come up with more efficient methods for missions. /In order to do this, we must observe several principles.

/(1) The Establishment of Mission Theology. /The church must establish a "mission theology" based on the Bible. /Mission theology allows for proper missions activity to take place.

/But mission theology that doesn't have the Bible as its foundation will have side effects. /When theology focuses more on social issues, /it tends to turn away from Christ's Great Commission.

/By establishing Christian theology, especially mission theology, /we are able to do missions work that is fitting for today's times.

/(2) Improving Mission Methods. /There is the need to improve mission skills today. /In order to come up with mission methods appropriate for today's times, we need to come up with appropriate mission methods in various fields.

/First, we must see "improvements in transportation." /The means of transportation must be fitting for today's time. /In the past, travelling by foot was the only way to do missions. /But today, we can make use of airplanes and other transportation means.

/Second, "improvements in mass media." /It is important that we use mass media as a means for missions. /We can evangelize a large audience through different types of media. /For example, books or screens.

/Today, we can make use of broadcasting and television to effectively preach the gospel to people. /We can also use the Internet and smartphones.

/(3) We need to Train Mission Workers. /We must train those who serve in missions work in a specific, realistic way.

/It is important for us to train missionaries who can adapt to modern times. /After we do this, we must professionally take part in missions.

/This concludes the 7th lecture on missiology. /Thank you.
/We will skip the 8th lecture on missiology.