

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Honor and Shame Society

Questions

- We sometimes hear that the world that Jesus lived in was the honor and shame society, what do you think it means?
- Can you imagine the social structure of the New Testament world?

4 Elements of Honor and Shame Society (from John Elliot)

a. Shame Culture

“What other people will say” serves as the chief sanction of conduct.

Honor and shame are primarily assessed by the court of public opinion.

“He who has a feeling of reverence and shame.. is afraid of an ill reputation.” – Plato

Ex) 1 Peter 5:7

b. Contest System

Zero-sum contest over honor.

Persons achieve honor not only by acts of bravery and beneficence, but also by successfully challenging others and calling their honor into question. Ignoring this challenge and failing to publicly defend one’s honor and reputation results in shame.

Ex) 1 Peter 2:15, 3:9 and 16, 4:14-16

c. Division by Gender

Males as potential to bring honor to the family, females to bring shame.

Ex) 1 Peter 3:7

d. Kinship System

From the viewpoint of the community, kinsmen have loyalty and obligation, but strangers have distrust and moral indifference.

Ex) 1 Peter 1:1, 17, and 2:11

Question

- How do you see honor and shame contest in the life of Jesus?

3. Let Us Read Ch. 2

4. Discussion

- a. Verse 1 begins with mentioning that Jesus returned to Capernaum. What would readers expect from this?
- b. Would it be easy to remove the roof to bring down the paralyzed man to Jesus?
- c. Verse 5 says that Jesus saw their faith. What does it imply in Jesus' ministry? (Compare with 5:25-34, 10:46-52, and 6:1-6)
- d. Why do you think Jesus said, "your sins are forgiven," to the paralyzed man?
- e. The Scribes thought it as blasphemy. According to Lev. 24:14-16, blasphemers should be stoned to death. So, what would readers expect from reading this gospel further?
- f. In verse 12, people glorified God. What does it mean?
- g. How would people at the time of Jesus treat tax collectors? Read Matt. 18:17, 21:31.
- h. Jesus had a meal with Levi and his friends. If you can relate it with the prayer, "give us this day our daily bread," how shall we understand this story? ?
- i. What does the challenge in verse 16 imply?
- j. For what do you think the Pharisees were fasting?
- k. How shall we understand verse 22?
- l. Verse 23 says that Jesus and His disciples "made their way." If it was theologically stated with an intention, what would it be? (Mishnah Sanhedrin 2:4)
- m. Take a look at the last story. The name of Jesus is not mentioned. Do you think it has any intention?

5. Closing Prayer