



Foto: Nils Laengner

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## Building Bridges by Communicating



# 1. Discover communication theory with the Bible

## 1.1. A biblical example

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed<sup>[a]</sup> thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Lk 18, 9-14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

# 1. Discover communication theory with the Bible

- Jesus told parables, which have the potential to fruitful perturbation of the listeners (recipients);
- The perturbation leads to new perspectives and a different understanding;
- Interpretations are different, when cultural and individual backgrounds are different;
- The Bible offers a multicultural access without losing it's message.

How does that work?

# 1. Discover communication theory with the Bible –

## 1.2. Reception as an active process

- Reading, listening, watching is always an active process;
- For a story both are important: The writer and the reader/listener (Theory of Receptionsaesthetic, Wolfgang Iser, Umberto Eco);
- Reception is a creative process;
- The meaning, that is given by different recipients to the same text, will be different;
- Especially the Bible activates the recipients (symbolic modus of signing);

# 2. Communication and cultural theory

## 2.1. Signs, Codes and their Function in Communication

How does reception work?

- In and by communication and it's signs;
- A sign represents something for somebody (C.S. Peirce)
- We all use different signs in our communication (sounds, letters, gestures...);
- We all are active users and recipients of signs;



## 2. Communication and cultural theory

### 2.1. Signs, Codes and Communication

- Signs are used for communication with the aim of understanding each other;
- Signs need the use of a code for interpretation;
- People in the different cultures learn codes in the cultural socialization in informal learning processes;
- Codes are part of a cultural and individual encyclopaedia;

# 3. Learning to expand the cultural and the individual encyclopedia

In the more and more globalized world and for to manage the challenges of mankind

- people have to learn for to widen their individual encyclopedia;
- Global understanding is a challenge.
- We need to learn about the cultures and their codes;
- We are here connected by one common ground: our common orientation is to follow Jesus Christ

# Teachers as bridge builders and agents for enriching the individual and cultural encyclopaedia

- Teachers are multipliers of culture and knowledge;
- They are agents for widening the individual encyclopaedia of themselves and the students by learning;
- They are agents for communication and understanding in a local and global horizon;



# Building bridges between people with different interpretations

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# How Jesus remains open with his parable

Jesus builds bridges with his parable:

- He deconstructs cultural and individual codes;
- He offers surprising new codes (Gods mercy, repentance and the equality of all);
- He sets in a move to learn about humility, about mercy, about destroying prejudices.