A WORLD OF GOOD

A GLOBAL STRATEGY PODCAST

Esther Jadhav

Season 4, Ep. 2: Cultural Intelligence (2021)
www.chogglobal.org/S4E2 (51 min)

Key Takeaway

As followers of Jesus, we are called to engage people who may think, speak, worship, and experience life differently than we do. By growing in awareness, humility, and curiosity, we become better equipped to reflect God's love across cultural boundaries.

SUMMARY

In this episode, Andrew and Nate speak with Rev. Dr. Esther Jadhav about the importance of cultural intelligence (CQ) in missions, ministry, and everyday relationships. Drawing from her experiences growing up in Mumbai, India, serving in the United States, and researching cultural intelligence, Esther explains how believers can better navigate cultural differences with humility, curiosity, and grace. The conversation highlights practical ways to prepare for mission trips, engage cross-cultural relationships, and move beyond assumptions to build meaningful connections with people who are different from us.

Scripture passage: Acts 17:22-34; What can we learn from Paul's approach to engaging people whose worldview differed significantly from his own?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Listen: 3:08-7:23.* Nate shares about cultural interactions from his first year in Spain. Can you think of a time when you misunderstood someone's actions because you interpreted them through your own cultural lens?
2. *Listen: 16:30-19:35.* What is cultural intelligence, and why do you think Esther argues that it is essential for ministry?
3. *Listen: 40:45 - 46:55.* What attitudes or practices can help individuals prepare for short-term mission trips in ways that honor and respect the people they serve?
4. "CQ [cultural intelligence] should help us deliver the gospel, without changing the gospel, in such a way that brings life to people." Esther reflects on how cultural intelligence is a spiritual practice rooted in the belief that all people bear God's image. In what ways can cultural intelligence help us share the gospel more faithfully and compassionately?

REFLECTION QUESTION

Think about a person or group you regularly interact with but may not fully understand because of cultural, generational, ethnic, or social differences. What is one intentional step you can take this week to listen, learn, and better understand their perspective before making assumptions?