

Values, Vision and a new decade

Jesus' radical words often perplex. Did Jesus use literary devices simply to get his point across or shock his listeners? Measuring Jesus' life to what he communicated reveals how it was meant to inspire believers to reconsider their existence to follow him to extreme ends. Following Jesus' sign, the Magi travelled across lands in search of a cosmically predicted king, perhaps to anticlimactically find a baby with seemingly average parents. Their expectations were nevertheless met, suggesting that an encounter with the Incarnate Word promises to alter life.

Jesus spoke the language of vision. His speech liberated people and transformed their minds. The effect was that people's values changed, their decisions altered, and their priorities focussed on spaces perhaps never imagined before.

Why live a radical life as a follower of Jesus? Only in loving Jesus unwaveringly, leaving our previous existences behind, can we love our neighbours, family and friends optimally, have I experienced. You merely have to try living for Jesus to see the transcendental realised in the other. Looking forward to a new year and decade, I would like to attain more of the language of Jesus so that my speech embodies such transcontextual values that result in the humanisation of our culture and society. Jesus' confrontational speech disconcerts the systems of *homo consumptor*, of finding our existence in the cultural nexus of use and dispose.

As we both delight and are gripped by the angst of a new decade, the strategic planning of our lives should apperceive our roles not as mere cultural consumers, but as contributors and cultural architects that revise our agency and speech towards visionary solidarity of shared identity in Jesus Christ. He calls us to join his journey of humanisation and to experience his ability to bring action and righteous ideals to perfect synchronisation.

I want to work towards developing our faith community's culture to personify an immediate response to Jesus' compelling vision of what the world ought to be. I would like for us to have a culture that prioritizes the fulfilment of people's lives in the encounter with God. My hope is that we will incarnationally live that people experience Christ's divine love through us. The vision is big. The vision is of global proportions, but is actualised in our humble obedience to follow him wherever and to whatever cost.

With steadfast assurance in his promises,
Rev Eben.
Epiphany 2020.