

GOODBYE & HELLO!

Pastor Hutchins COC Dec. 30, 2020

This is the Last Worship Gathering of 2020!

I. **2020 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF DISRUPTION!**

A. We're now fully vested in a Culture of Uncertainty —

B. In fact, according to noted author Simon Bailey, we should no longer expect to discover our thrill in **Déjà vu** Moments —

1. In a Culture of Uncertainty, we must create the **Vujá Dé** Moment —

C. In a world of continuous, molten Change - the person willing to harness the power of **Vujá Dé** will shift from **Average** to **Brilliant** —

1. Because they determine to regain control of their inner life by igniting a *fresh vision* that ultimately allows them to turn a moment into a movement —

2. **Déjà vu** means "already seen it."

3. **Vujá Dé** is the reverse of the French saying, & it means "**you've never seen it, but you intend to create it**"
4. **Vujá Dé** is seeing — and living — your future as it's happening now!
 - a. **Vujá Dé** implies seeing everything as it is for the first time or better yet, seeing everything everyone else sees, but understanding it differently!
5. **Vujá Dé** moments are about the future — it's about envisioning & believing in the **possibilities** —
 - a. ***Believing*** in the future so strongly that those possibilities become probable realities —
- D.** To instill **Vujá Dé** moments in our lives, we must be willing to look for the uncommon in the common, for meaning behind the actions & words, for the new in the old —
- E.** **Vujá Dé** moments are all about shifting perspective — about making changes without having external validation —

1. It's about breaking from the old to embrace the new — to let go of what is "safe" & convenient in order to grow & expand.

II. THE APOSTLE PAUL SPOKE OF Vujá Dé THIS WAY ———

- A. *"Brothers & sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it (apprehended it). But this one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind & straining is toward what is ahead,"*

Phil. 3:13 NIV

- B. **Jesus** declared, *"No one who puts his hand to the plow & then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*

Luke 9:62

- C. **Jesus** knew the peril that snares the heart that is in constant pursuit of Déjà vu living —

1. **He** knew that *Jeremiah* declared, *"Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels & in the stubbornness*

of their evil heart, & went backwards & not forward." **Jer. 7:24**

- D. To live in a dynamic, ever-evolving, always-changing period, a person must work forward from the power of his/her Vision —
1. For the *Born-Again Believer* - Vision works from & emanates out of TRUTH —
 2. Because TRUTH determines Values & our Values give direction to our Future —
 3. Values shape our Habits which are anchored in our Vision —
 4. And, to have Vujá Dé vision means we develop the *inner man* to become Preactive
 - a. Preactive: allowing us to change from the inside out, instead of being forced to change from the outside in —
 5. We become Preactive by: Anticipate → Transform → Skip → Go Opposite → Redefine → Reinvent → Direct the Future

- a. **Anticipate:** Being preactive means anticipating the future before it happens. Being anticipatory, instead of reactive, allows us to change from the inside out, instead of being forced to change from the outside in. How can we begin to anticipate the future?
- b. **Transform:** to be Transformational means doing something completely different. It's no longer enough to change; no matter what field we're in, we need to transform. There is no organization that is not going to transform dramatically & fundamentally over the months ahead - whether or not we want it to. What does radical transformation look like for you?
- c. **Take your biggest problem & skip it:** A difficult problem can easily become a roadblock so large that it seems impossible to get around. The result is often procrastination & paralysis. The key to

unraveling our biggest problems is to recognize that they are typically not our real problem. Skipping our biggest problem, instead of trying to solve it, sets our minds free to discover & engage with the real problem.

d. Go opposite: One powerful way to trigger a shift in perspective is to take note of where everyone else is looking, & then look in the opposite direction. Looking where no one else is looking helps you see what no one else is seeing, & then do what no one else is doing.

e. Redefine and reinvent: Reinventing our ministerial services & programs based on the visible changes taking place has always been a powerful strategy, but today it has become a continuous imperative.

Reinvention is not the same as adding a twist or a new feature; once something is

reinvented, it never goes back to being the way it was before.

f. Direct your future: To a certain extent, our vision of the future is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Change your view of the future & you direct your future. Our vision of the future drives our choices & our behaviors, which produce our outcomes & shape our lives. **We become what we dream.** Which means that if we want to know what we are becoming, we need to ask, what are we dreaming?

III. **BLIND BARTIMAEUS** ———

A. Both *Mark & Luke's* Gospels tell a story of a blind man, *Bartimaeus*, that can help us to learn to see again & get God's vision for our lives after all we have experienced in 2020 —

B. In this account of Bartimaeus' miracle, Jesus teaches us a five-part process of how we get our vision back in 2021 ———

C. #1 — Believe *Jesus* can change the situation.

1. Everything starts with hope.

2. If you don't have hope, you cannot cope.

3. You must have hope to change.

4. Real hope begins with believing that *Jesus* can change your situation.

5. *Bartimaeus* demonstrated this from the beginning of the story. When *Jesus* passed by, the Bible says *Bartimaeus* called out:

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Luke 18:38 CSB

6. *Bartimaeus* believed *Jesus* could help—and that *He* would help. Do you?

7. One of the reasons many believers have lost their hope is they're looking in the wrong places for it.

8. Hope for you & your family can't be found in this world, but will only be found in *Jesus*

Christ & **His** Word — **God** is the only source of *hope* that will never disappoint you.

- a. ***"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*** Heb. 11:1

D. #2 — Ignore all the negative voices.

1. When *Bartimaeus* spoke up, the surrounding people tried to quiet him down. He was just a blind beggar, & **Jesus** was an important Teacher —
2. *Bartimaeus* isn't alone. When we start engaging with God about a vision for our church, our lives, our futures — we hear critics.
 - a. The Law of the Critic: *"Anyone who does not have a Vision for themselves, will vilify anyone who has a vision for themselves."*
 - b. They'll never want you to have a vision because they do not have one —
3. You will never embrace **God's** vision for your life if you listen to the negative voices.

a. The Bible tells us, ***“It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you.”***

Prov. 29:25 GNT

4. Fearing the opinion of others disables your emotions ———

a. The moment we start wondering what others will think as we embrace God’s vision, we’re dead in the water ———

b. The Bible goes on to say, ***“But if you trust the Lord, you are safe”*** **Prov. 29:25 GNT**

5. You see, our only two options as we listen to the opinions of others is **fear** or **faith**.

E. #3 — Listen for God’s call.

1. **Mark 10:49** says after *Bartimaeus* yelled out, **Jesus** told the others: ***“Call him”*** — And that’s what they did.

2. **Jesus** is calling our church, **He’s** calling you personally — **Are You Listening?**

3. **Calling & Vision** go together. If you want to know God’s vision for 2021, you must embrace **His** call.

4. Church, we can't fulfill **God's** vision unless we as a church accepts **God's** call.
5. And the only way to hear **God's** call, is to spend time listening to **Him**.

F. #4 — Tell God exactly what you want.

1. **Jesus** asked *Bartimaeus*: “*What do you want Me to do for you?*” *‘Lord,’ he said, ‘I want to see’*” — **Luke 18:41 CSB**
2. *Bartimaeus* didn't go into a long speech. He didn't explain why he was blind. He simply told **Jesus** that he wanted to see.
3. To get **God's** vision for your ministry, you need to be clear about your goals —
 - a. I encourage each of you to spend an extended period in prayer the first 50 days of 2021. Ask **God** what **He** wants to do through you this coming year —
 - b. **God** loves goals, because your goals are statements of faith — **God** loves it when we trust **Him**.

- c. When we set goals, we're telling **God** what we believe **He** wants us to achieve, & we're trusting **God** for that outcome.
- d. Write these goals down. It'll make them more specific and reachable.

G. #5 — Receive your vision in faith.

1. *Bartimaeus* did this. **Jesus** says to him, ***“Receive your sight. . . . Your faith has saved you”*** **Luke 18:42 CSB**
2. When **Jesus** calls you to fulfill **His** will, you do what **He** calls you to do. You step out in faith & receive what **He** has for you.
3. **Faith** is believing what **God** has told you is true because **He** is ***faithful & true*** —
4. It's time to trust **God** for **His** vision for 2021. **He** is the **Author** of it & the only **One** who can make it happen.