

This statement summarises the issues raised in speeches delivered by me in Brisbane's Public Forum since first I spoke there on the 11th February, 1962.

1. The crucifixion of Jesus is not simply something that took place in an overseas country about 1,932 years ago. 'Jesus' stands for a living principle and the principle he stands for is not restricted to any particular place nor to any particular time. You, the 20th century citizen, have no advantage over the crucifying Jews of 30 AD and may even stand in exactly the same condemnation. The same questions of principle confront you. 'Jesus' is crucified daily. Here. Today. In Australia just as everywhere else.

2. The story of the Garden of Eden simply relates how Man, by the convenient means of self-delusion, attempted to escape from responsibility and from facing the facts. Truth was, to Adam, only what Adam chose to 'believe'. He exchanged the truth for a lie and worshiped and served the creature (including himself) rather than the Creator.

3. The crucifixion of Truth by self-righteous ignorance in 30 AD was a repeat performance of what took place in the Garden of Eden. Basically, what happened to Jesus was this. He took away the 'cover' and the 'excuse' which mankind had erected in justification of comfortable irresponsibility. Self-righteous men – smug, sanctimonious and complacent – were forced to take a good look at themselves. Prevarication was their ruling principle; they had never been honest with themselves in their lives. But when they were forced to look at themselves as they really were they had no stomach for what they saw. So, deluding themselves that the cause of their discomfiture was external, they vindictively vented their spleen on the innocent party, Jesus. And yet the real cause, as it always must, lay inside themselves (yourselves, ourselves); certainly not in Jesus of Nazareth.

4. Throughout the centuries pictured in the Old Testament the Jews developed a consciousness of a coming 'anointed one' (i.e., christ or messiah). A concrete image slowly emerged. By the time Jesus was preaching, this image of the 'christ' had been developed by the Jews to the stage where it was simply a projection of their own mind. They wanted a christ fashioned, not after the image of God, but after the image of their own minds; a christ indeed who must satisfy the criteria of the Jewish mental image (which image was self-delusion in the form of self-projection) or the Jews would not accept him as the anointed one of prophecy.

Naturally, there was conflict between the real Jesus (who was like himself) and the image of the christ conjured up by the Jews (which was like themselves.) Here again occurred a repeat performance of what went on in the Garden of Eden. To prove that what they 'believed' was the truth, they crucified Jesus. But all they proved was that Jesus was not fashioned after their image, and that fact was obvious anyway. Then Almighty God took a hand in the matter and showed that, irrespective of what the Jews 'believed', Jesus was, in fact, the man he had appointed.

5. The Jews crucified Jesus because he did not conform to their own delusions of grandeur. Yet they accused him, not once but several times, of being 'mental'.

6. Human nature is nothing if not consistent. The 20th century image of christ as projected by theology is based on exactly the same principles as the Jewish image of 30 AD.

7. All denominations and sects keep Jesus at a comfortable distance. They are united on the principle that Jesus was not just a normal man, born in a normal fashion. They have fashioned him according to the grandeur of their own delusions. But perhaps Jesus is really like himself and not like the image of the theologians at all. And perhaps – perhaps, I say – God has really appointed a day in which he shall judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained!

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