



# Beyond Belief with Marcus Borg

## 2. Meeting Jesus Again

*"Whenever we emphasize the divinity of Jesus at the expense of his humanity, we lose track of the utterly remarkable human being he was. [South African Jesus Scholar Albert] Nolan puts it this way, 'Jesus is a much underrated man. To deprive this man of his humanity is to deprive him of his greatness.'"*

*-- Marcus Borg*

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### **Questions for Reflection or Discussion**

#### **Chapter 1**

What is the "Quest for the historical Jesus" and how has it shaped our understanding of Jesus?

What specific characteristics of the historical Jesus does Borg highlight?

#### **Chapter 2**

Borg suggests that the historical Jesus was more of a social prophet than a moralistic Bible-thumper. What of Jesus' values/priorities lead Borg to think that?

Who comes to mind as examples of contemporary social prophets?

The historical Jesus clearly had a passion for the economically disadvantaged and "least of these." What might a Christian's concern for economic justice look like today?

#### **Chapter 3**

How does Borg understand the two meanings of the Kingdom of God?

How does the personal understanding of the Kingdom of God become “the basis for the transformation of self”?

Why were the ruling elites right to kill Jesus?

#### **Chapter 4**

Why is Jesus’ use of “Kingdom” language so important?

What are some of the revolutionary and politically radical elements of the Lord’s Prayer?

Considering how foundational non-violence is to Jesus’ program, why do you suppose that it’s so seldom mentioned in our churches?

What was it about the rhetoric of Amos that so changed Borg’s understanding of our work as Christians?

#### **Further Questions**

Which ideas from this session did you resonate with? Which did you find challenging?

What are the implications of this material for you personally? For your community? For faith-based institutions as a whole?