



Beyond Belief with Marcus Borg

3. Followers of the Way

"God's dream for the earth is for a world of justice (meaning primarily economic justice) and peace. And the way to justice and peace, in terms of Jesus' own message and incarnation, is the path of non-violent resistance to oppression and an affirmation of a non-violent world. That's one way of talking about...following the Way of Jesus."

-- Marcus Borg

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Chapter 1

How does Borg distinguish between the pre-Easter and post-Easter Jesus?

What's your gut response to Borg's assertion that the Resurrection isn't so much about an empty tomb as it is experiencing the risen Christ?

Chapter 2

What does Borg mean by:

Sacrifice

Anti-Temple Theology

Institutional Monopoly

In its context, why is Hebrews so subversive?

Taken out of context, how has Hebrews been misused to promote substitutionary atonement?

How do you understand what Borg calls the "metaphorical proclamation of radical grace"?

What are the implications for the Christian life if Jesus' death means "the abolition of requirements as the basis for our relationship to God"?

How would you describe the difference between religion based on requirements and religion based on relationship?

Chapter 3

How does Paul's experience of the risen Christ illustrate the proclamations "Jesus Lives" and "Jesus is Lord."

Early followers of "the Way" experienced the risen Christ in ways that healed, transformed lives, and created new forms of community. Where do you see that in the world today?

With what false alternative has "modernity's preoccupation with factuality" burdened us?

Chapter 4

There are two dimensions to "the Way": an internal/metaphorical way and an external/"worldly" way. Explain.

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?