



Beyond Belief with Marcus Borg

4. Reading the Bible

"To use a phrase from the contemporary Roman Catholic theologian David Tracy, the Bible is a 'religious classic.' By definition, a religious classic is a book that has a surplus of meaning – meaning that goes beyond what the ancient author or the ancient community intended."

-- Marcus Borg

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Chapter 1

What do you find most helpful for your journey in the way Borg describes the Bible as a human product?

What are the advantages to reading the Bible metaphorically instead of literally?

Chapter 2

Define:

De-literalization

De-absolutism

“surplus of meaning”

According to Borg, what are the reasons the Bible has such significance?

Chapter 3

Borg details three Biblical “macro-stories.” Describe each.

1. Exile and Return
2. Bondage and Liberation
3. Priestly Story

What disadvantages do you see in Christianity having emphasized the Priestly Story (to the exclusion of the other stories)?

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?