

April 21, 2019

John 20:11-18

Lenten focus: Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,
Marcus Borg – re-imagining Jesus

Problem with trying to know historical Jesus: you can't
Borg separates pre-resurrection from post-resurrection
Jesus

Truth is: all we have is post-resurrection Jesus, plus
2,000 years of religious and societal development –
there is no going back

On this Easter Sunday I am not going to try to “prove”
to you the historicity of a bodily resurrection

Nor am I going to try to use modern science to
“interpret” a bodily resurrection

Jesus' followers experienced something so powerful it
transformed their lives; they explained this
“experience” as Jesus' resurrection

You can accept this on faith, or not

If you accept it, the question becomes “Where and when
have you seen the resurrected Jesus?”

Have you even thought about looking around you for
Jesus?

Sounds crazy? crazier than the 2,000-year-old story of
Jesus' resurrection?

Think about the scripture story I just read. Mary, in her
sorrow, sees a man near the tomb and mistakes him
for the gardener. It is when the man calls her by name
that she recognizes her “teacher”.

Most Bible stories of resurrection experiences start with
a follower not recognizing the person as Jesus.

It is only in the breaking of bread or being named that
Jesus is made known.

What does this tell us?

That Jesus is found in relationship; found in those
moments when our hearts and eyes have been opened
to God's unconditional welcome and grace and love.

Those moments are most often found in and through
another person; someone who touched us, supported
us, carried us, when we needed it most.

Or, in the overwhelming awe of nature, as we interacted
with God's creation

Jesus the Christ is with us. If we learn to trust in this
truth, we will be amazed how often Jesus, in the form
of God's grace, will appear.

The more our hearts see God's grace all around us, the
less fear will be able to control our lives.

And, as our fear lessens, the more our tears, like Mary's,
will be changed from tears of sorrow to tears of joy.

So, as we now enter this season of Easter, keep your
eyes and your hearts wide-open to meeting Jesus.

And, live your life as if each person you meet is the
resurrected Jesus.

For then, you will meet Jesus again, and again!

Amen.