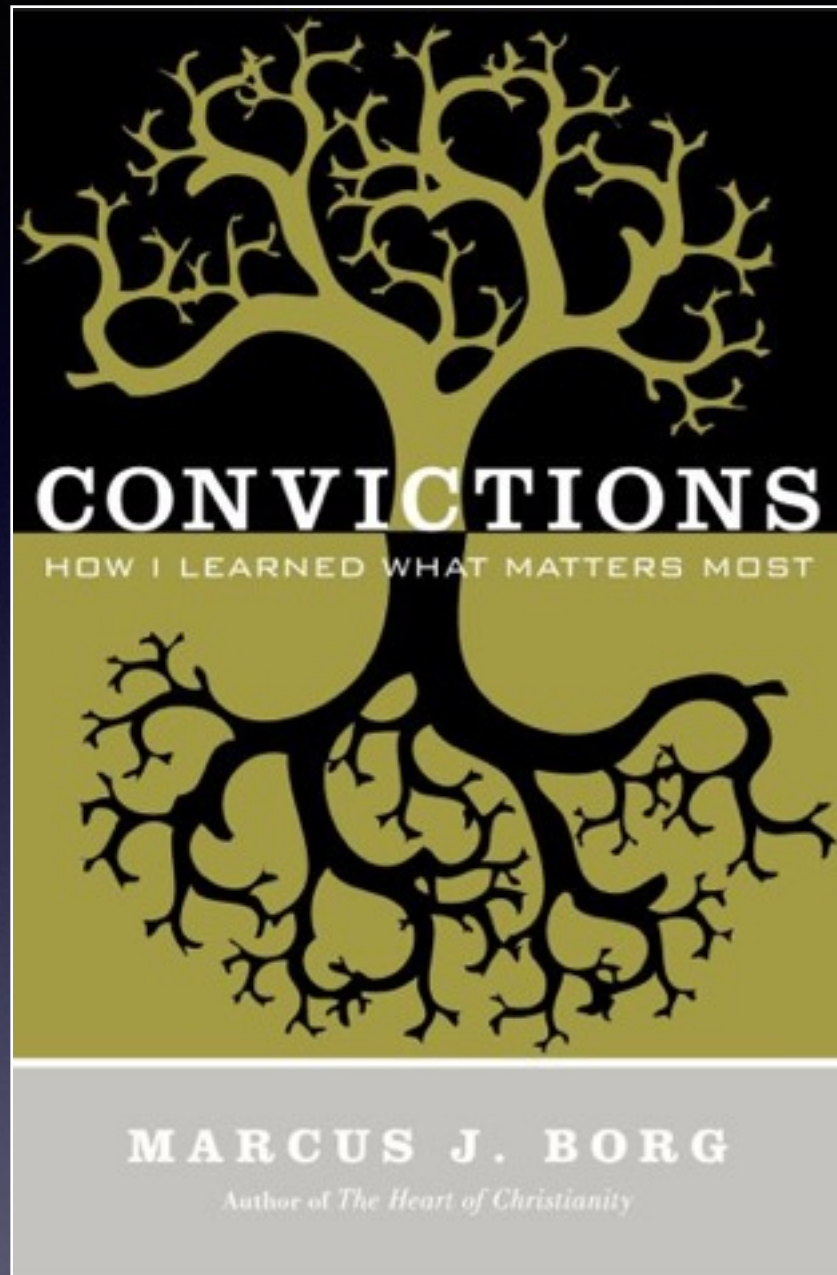


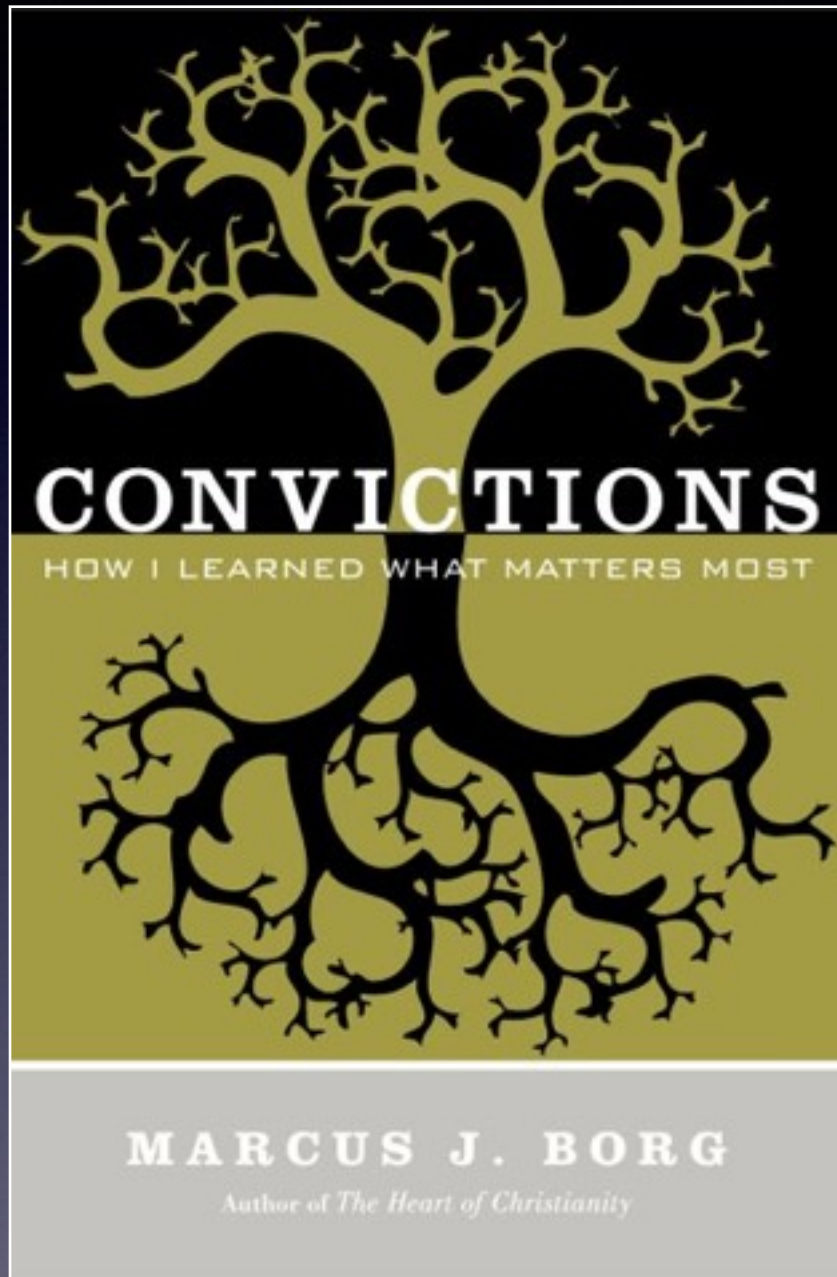
Convictions - how I learned what matters most.



ACTS
Fall 2017

St David's United Church
Calgary

Convictions



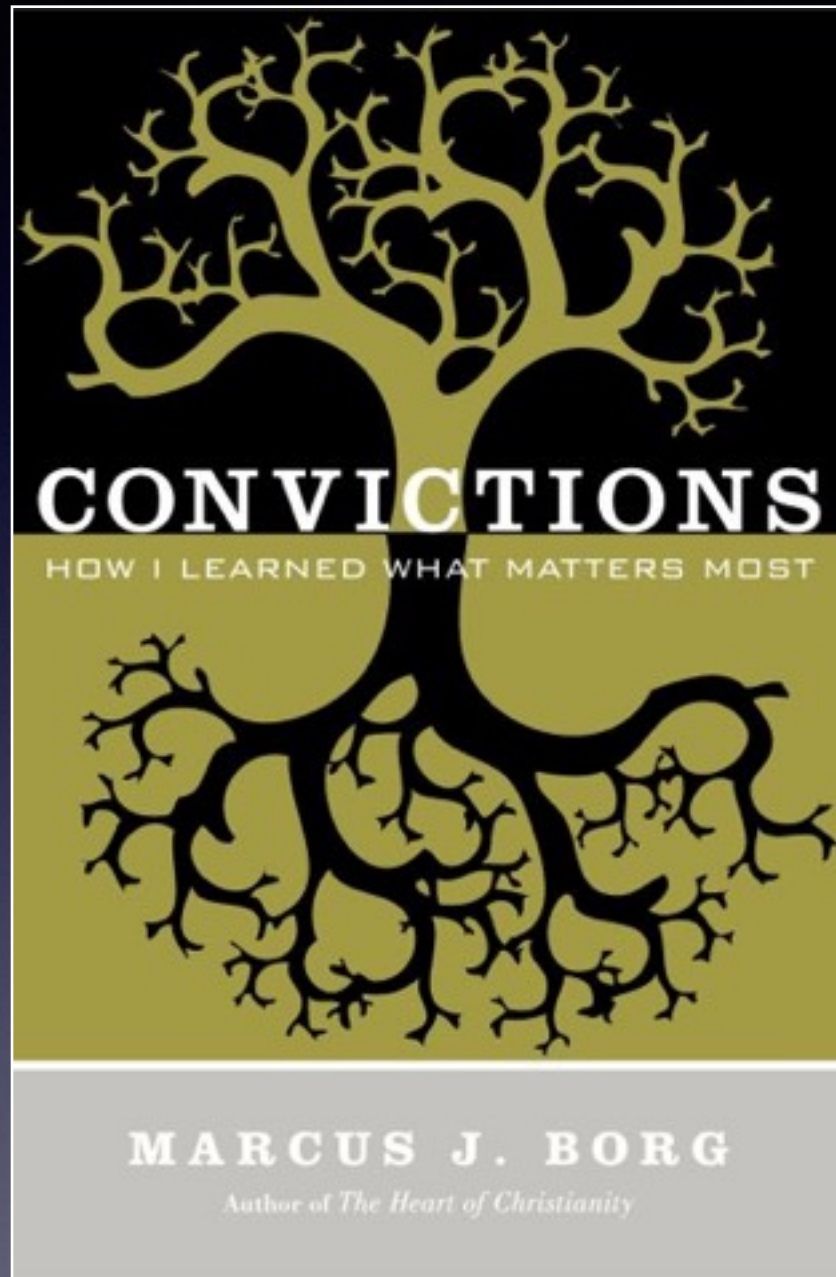
Session # 7

- Opening - Brenda
- Reflections on Chapter
- Break
- Videos - Jock
- Discussions
- Closing - Jack

Opening

Rev. Roger Wolsey is an ordained Methodist pastor who directs the Wesley Foundation at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

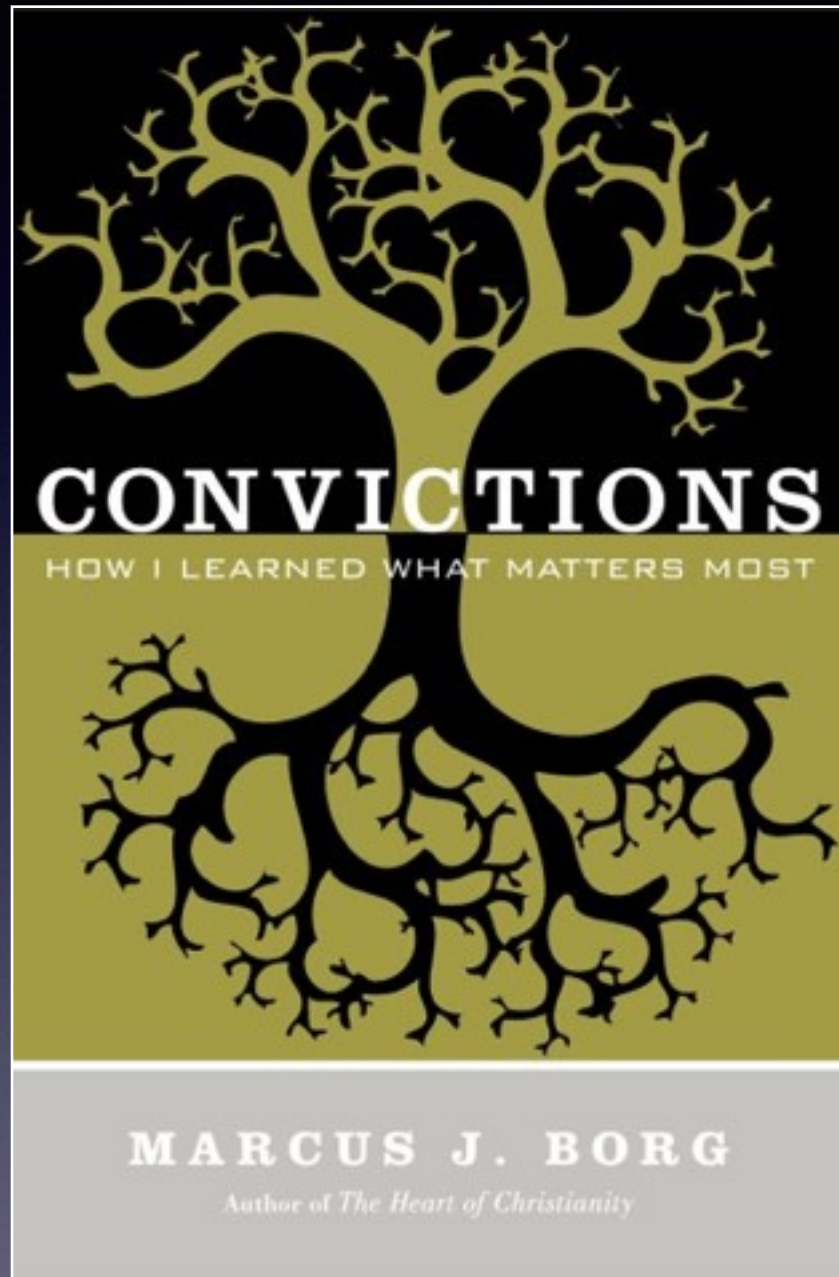
He is author of *Kissing Fish: Christianity for People who don't like Christianity*



Holy Manners Bookstudy 39

Convictions

The Bible can be
True without Being
Literally True



I am convinced that the Bible's major stories and themes are true regardless of their literal-factual truth... The truth of the Bible is its “more than literal” meanings, its “more than factual” meanings.

metaphorical
meanings = “more
than literal” meanings
= “symbolic” meanings
= parabolic meanings

- a. Our Biblical ancestors told the stories they told because of the meanings they saw in them.
- b. Jesus was a master of parabolic meaning. The meanings of his stories was less-than-factual and more-than-factual.

- **TODAY'S BIBLICAL
LITERALISM**

Biblical literalism

a. HISTORY

b. BIBLICAL LITERALISM DISCREDITS
THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIANITY IN THE
MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE

Does faith include believing in the literal
factuality of biblical stories?

Should biblical literalism be Christianity's
most public face?

c. Creationism versus Evolution Theology

- a divisive force and a political issue

d. “Anti-intellectualism”

**IS THAT WHAT CHRISTIAN FAITH IS
ABOUT?**

**e. Coming to terms with the
book of Revelations ?**

the positive alternative is
Historical-Metaphorical
Interpretation

a. mainstream biblical scholarship

b. HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION MEANS

- “setting these ancient texts in their ancient historical contexts.”
Borg p. 112,113

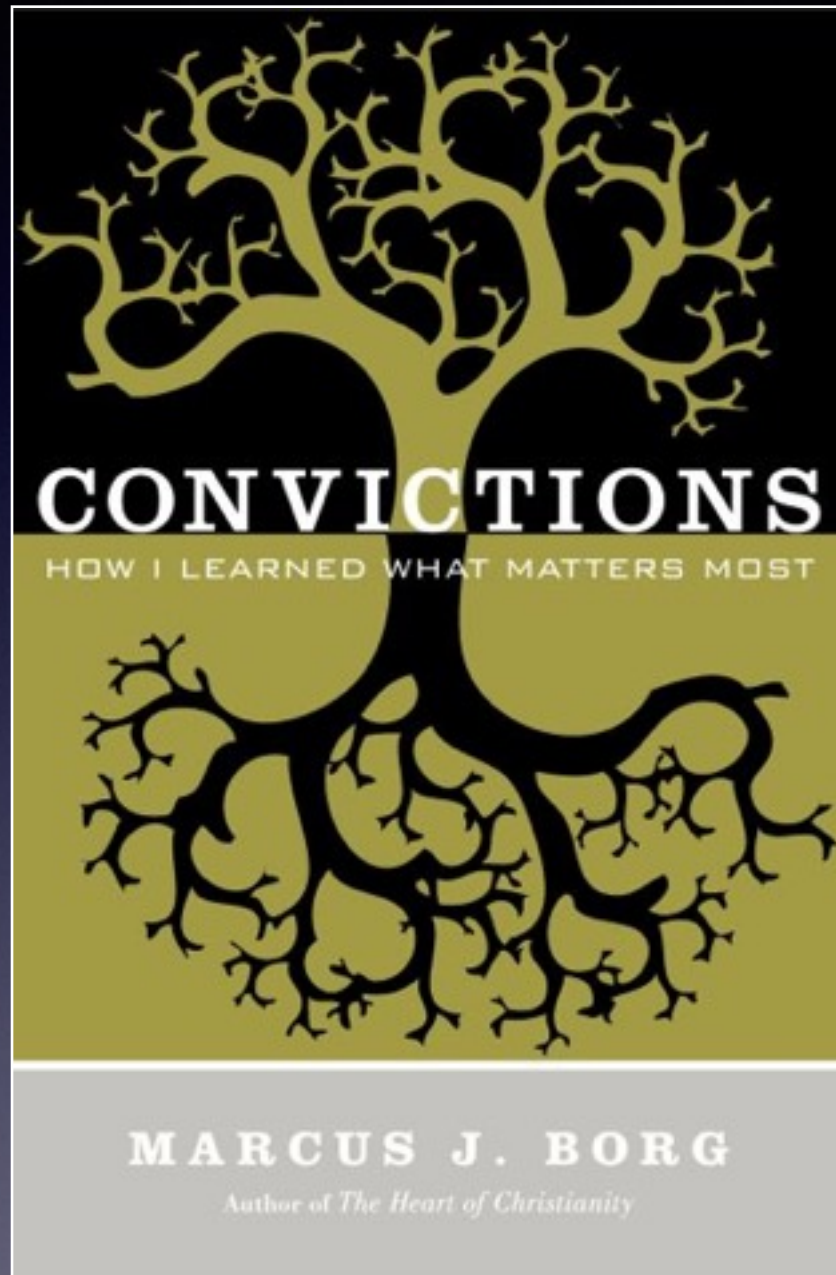
Metaphorical Interpretation:
“Meaning most often needs to
be understood as plural:
Biblical stories most often
have multiple resonances and
layers of meaning.”

PARABOLICAL MEANING

- Parables
- Old and New

CREATION STORIES AS PARABLES

- ✿ 900s BCE and 500s BCE
- ✿ Put into writing about 500 BCE
- ✿ Genesis 1:1-2, 2: 4a
- ✿ Genesis 2: 4b-3:24
- ✿ Genesis 3: 14-19



In a world created
by God and declared
by God to be good
and very good, why
is there so much
pain, suffering and
misery? ”

SELF-AWARENESS LEADS TO
ANXIETY ABOUT THE SELF
AND ITS WELL-BEING AND THE
CONSEQUENT CENTERING IN
THE SELF. (PRIDE/ HUBRIS)

BORG'S CONVICTION
“THESE STORIES ARE TRUE
THOUGH NOT FACTUAL.”

**“I DON'T KNOW IF IT
HAPPENED THIS WAY, BUT I
KNOW THIS STORY
IS TRUE.” - BLACK ELK**

2. The Story of the Exodus as Parable

a. Israel's Primal Narrative

b. Borg asks:

- Did God really send ten plagues upon the Egyptians?
- Did God really divide the sea then let the water rush back to drown Pharaoh's army?
(My question, age 13.)

BORG'S CONVICTION

These questions do not matter, rather God willed the people's liberation from bondage to Pharaoh and God provided for them on their journey through the wilderness. Today, God wills our liberation and is with us as we enter into a new way of being and living. The new life is entered in God.
“You shall love the Lord your God.”

3. THE STORIES OF JESUS' BIRTH

NATIVITY STORIES

SIMILAR METAPHORICAL MEANINGS

Parabolic interpretation emphasizes the meanings of these stories.

WHAT DID THESE STORIES MEAN FOR
THOSE WHO TOLD THEM AND WHAT DO
THEY MEAN FOR US?

THE STORIES OF EASTER

BORG'S CONVICTION:

Jesus is a figure of the present and not just a beloved memory. His followers continued to know him, experience him after his death as Lord, a divine reality, one with God, raised to God's right hand. Whether or not the tomb was empty, whether anything special happened to the corpse of Jesus, these stories are true."

CONCLUSION

1. To seek the parabolic meanings of bible stories is never a mistake. To fail to seek their parabolic meanings is always a mistake. Parabolic interpretation shifts the emphasis from believing that the events the stories relate happened to seeing and affirming their meanings.

2. Faith is about something far more important. It is about our relationship with God — about entering in God, being loyal (faithful) to God and Trust in God. Faith is the opposite of hubris(pride) and anxiety.
(Spong refers to “GUILT”)

Break

Next Readings

Session 8 - November 13, 2017

Chapter 7 - Jesus's Death on the Cross Matters —

But Not Because He Paid for Our Sins

opening: heather closing: deb

Study Website

<http://conv.stdavidscalgary.net>

Coming your way soon. Meanwhile check out
sduc.ca/ministries/acts for links and notes

Closing

Jack McFarquhar

