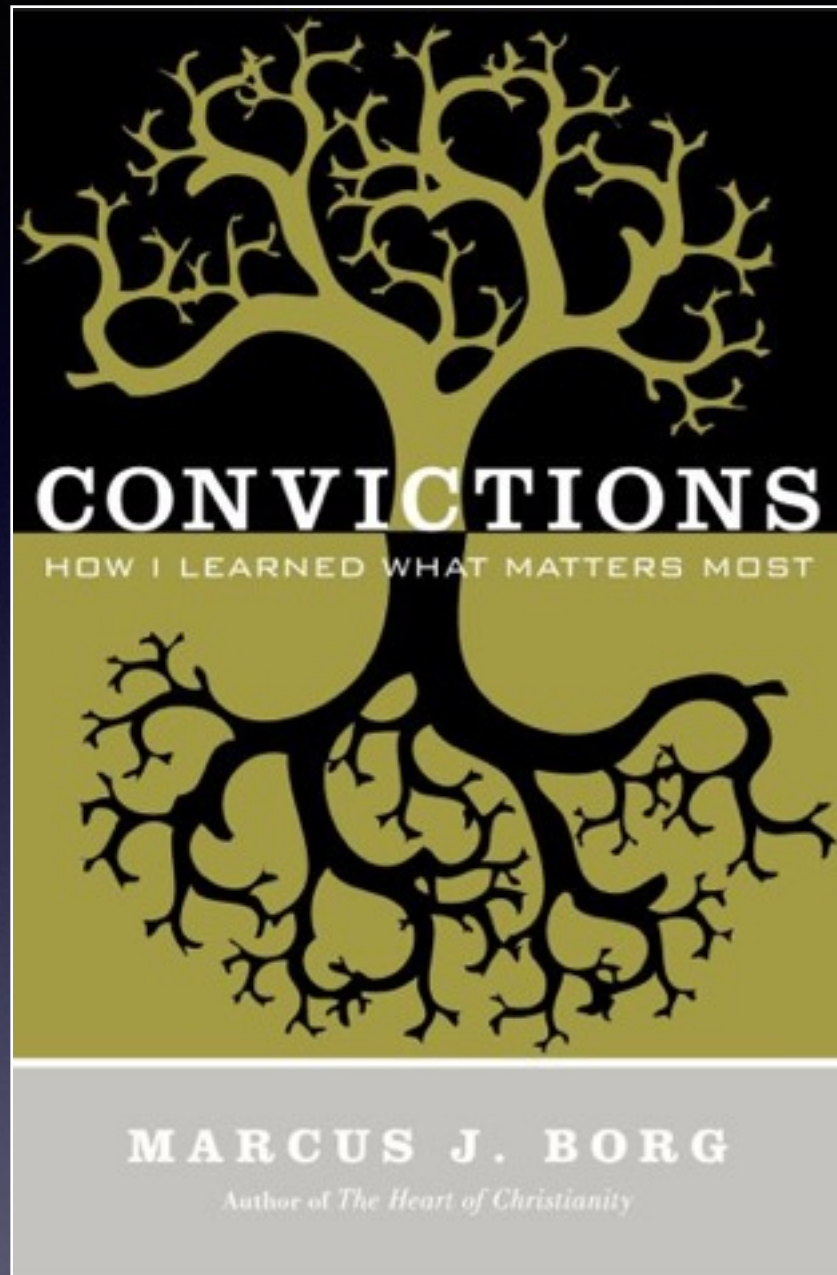


Convictions - how I learned what matters most.



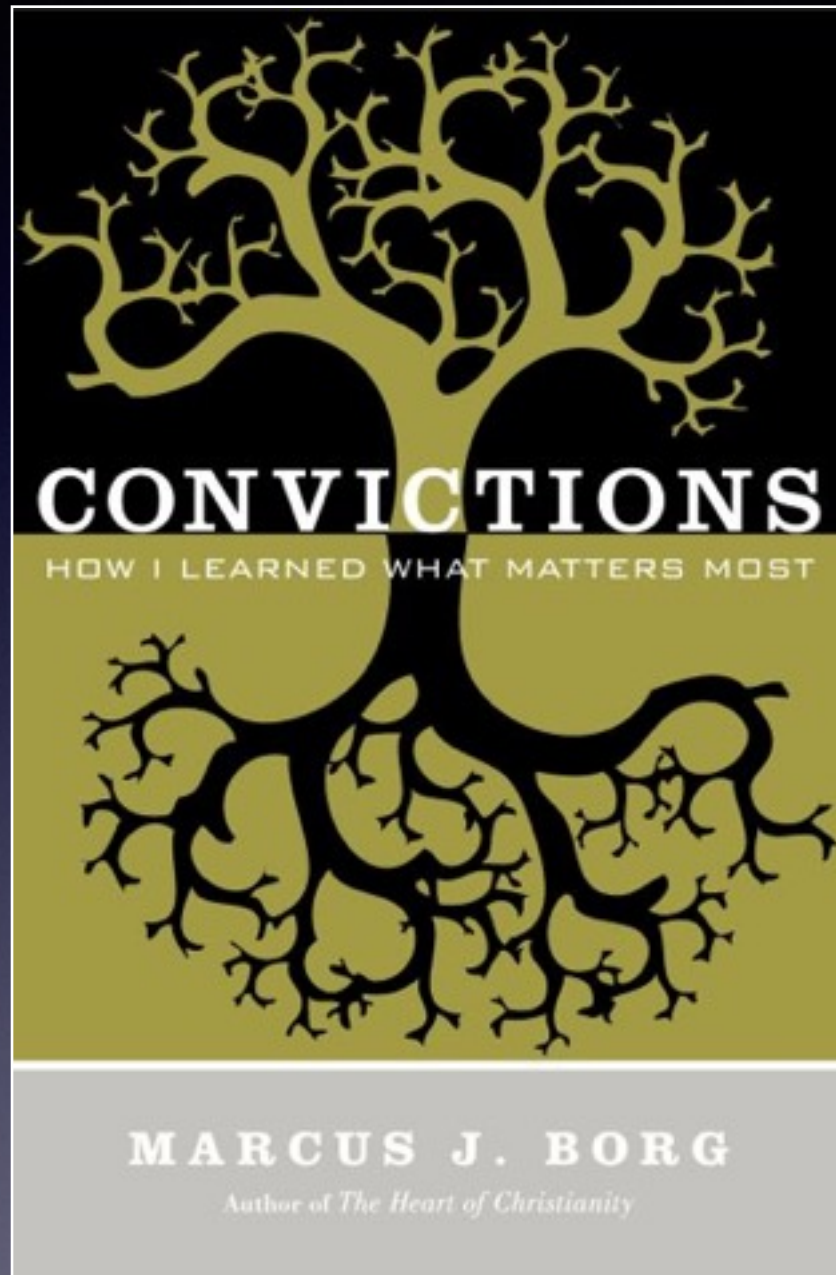
ACTS
Fall 2017

St David's United Church
Calgary

Convictions

Session # 9

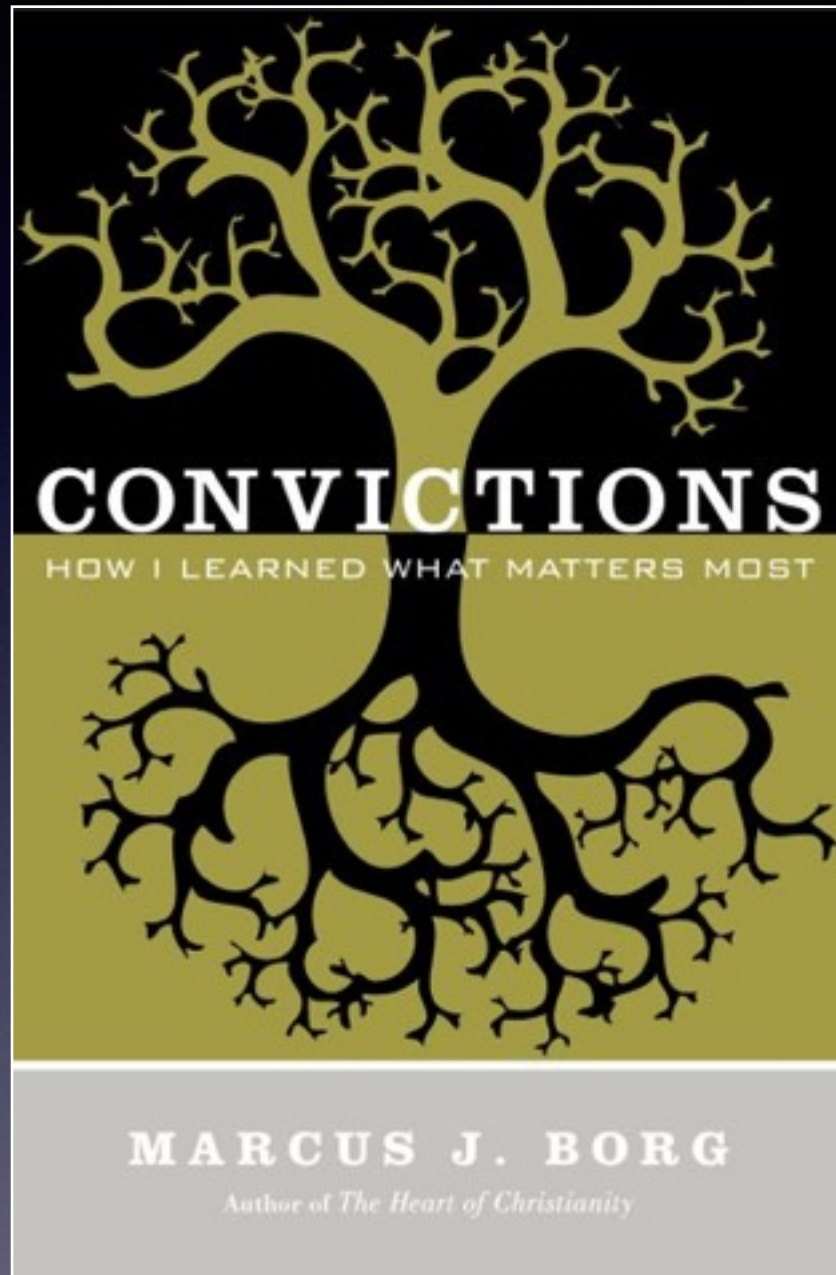
- Opening - Joan Gray
- Reflections on Chapter
- Discussion
- Closing - Sally Hodges



Opening

Joan Gray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mP-AQkPvfo&list=RD-mP-AQkPvfo>



Holy Manners Bookstudy 39

Chapters 8 and 9

- The Bible is Political
- God is Compassionate about Justice and the Poor

KEY POINTS OF SESSION 9

The Prophetic Word in the Hebrew Prophets and Jesus

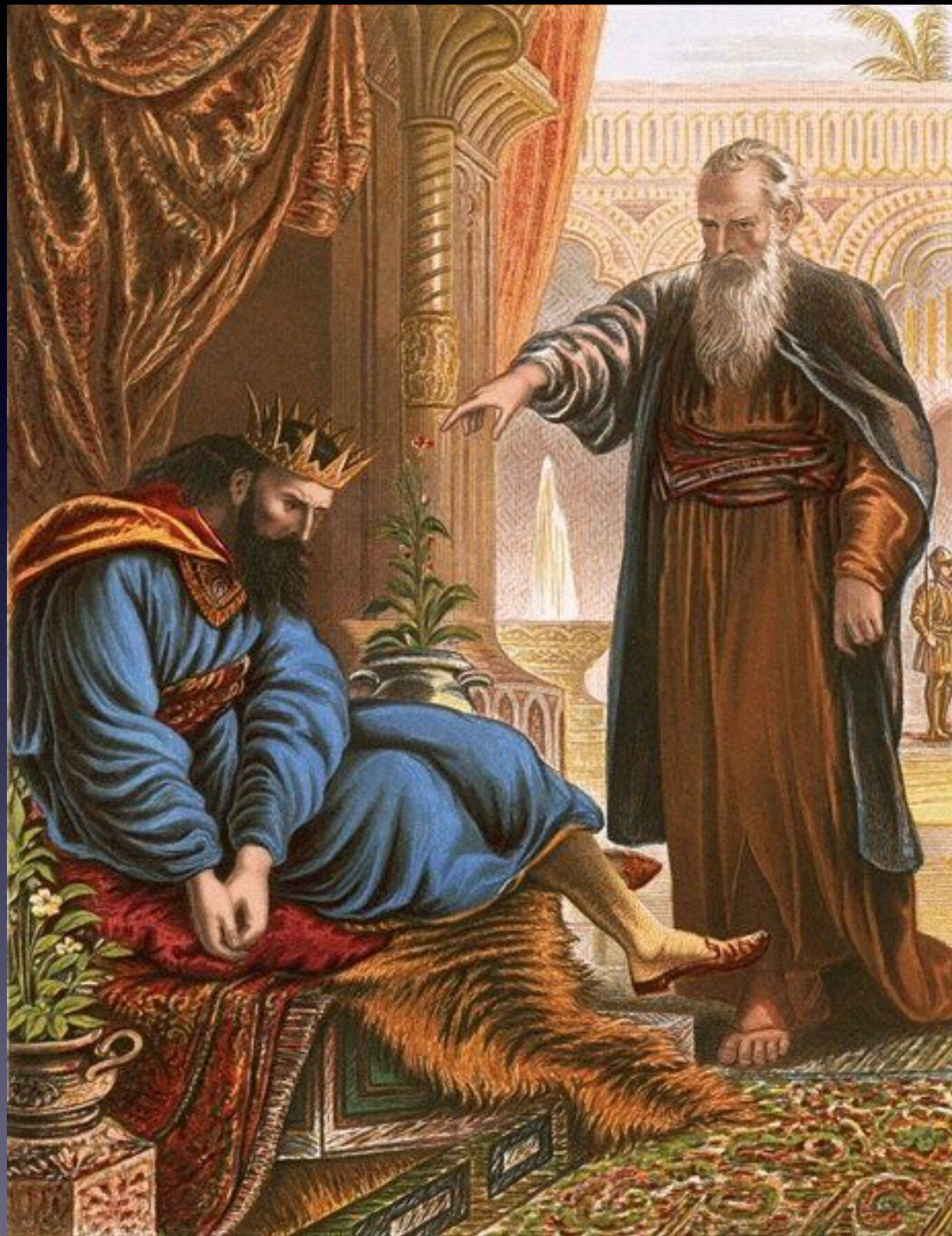
1. Speaking truth to power
2. God is on the side of the poor when the wealthy ignore their conscience
3. The Bible emphasises systemic injustice; not personal ethics

Questions?

Unlike many of Borg's
"Convictions" we are probably
most familiar with the themes
of these two chapters because
they tend to be strongly
emphasized in our United
Church

Would you agree?

The Image of Nathan confronting David



gn!!!

Nathan confronting David

gn!!!

-15 (read)

formation and passage)

-15 (read)

formation and passage)

"You are
the man!!"

I Samuel
12: 1-15

Justice is an important dimension and speaking truth to power is an important characteristic of progressive Christianity

Many examples of this fact can be found in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament

We can only begin to deal with the references, but Borg provides many leads for us to follow.

Taking the Bible seriously
means taking politics
seriously

Our challenge is to speak
truth to power for the
well-being of the society
within which we live

Our task is to work to
change unjust societal
structures

An important distinction –

When Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world" to Pilate during his trial (John 18) he did not mean "My kingdom is in heaven."

He meant "My kingdom is an ALTERNATIVE kingdom to the one you represent – namely Caesar's."

In the Bible, the political issues – which are also religious – are about economic justice, fairness, peace and non-violence. (p. 152)

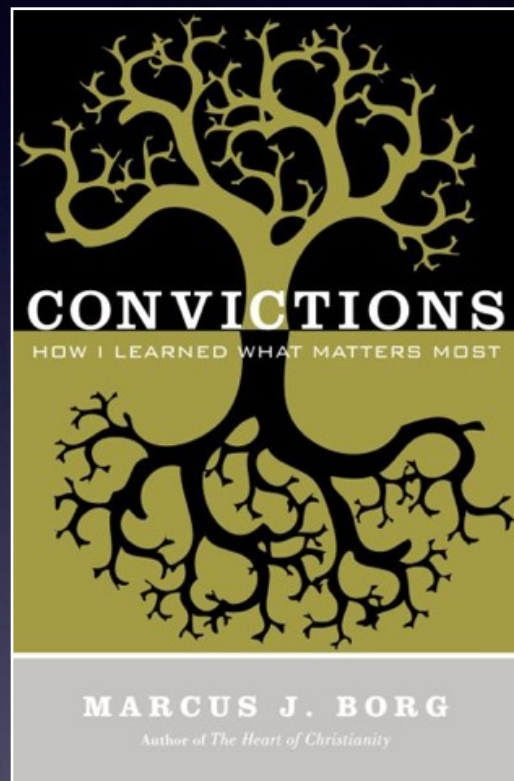
We are challenged to confront the 'domination systems' existing from time immemorial to the present that harm and destroy people

Paul's frequent
statement –
"Jesus is Lord"
was a direct challenge
to Roman imperial
theology and the
domination system it
represented. (p. 162)

In a democracy like ours, voting responsibly is an important aspect of our Christian faith.

Not every Christian is called to be an activist. But all are called to take seriously God's dream for a more just and non-violent world.

- God is Passionate About Justice and the Poor
- The Hebrew prophet Amos is a case study in the Bible and politics.
- Our Hebrew Bible references and their connections to similar themes in the New Testament shine a new light of importance to the study of both traditions.



Two controversial points:

- God indicts and takes the side of the poor (when the wealthy ignore their consciences). (p. 171)
- The Bible emphasizes systemic injustice not personal ethics per se (p. 182)

Compare Borg's strong critique of American individualism and exceptionalism in this chapter.

- How are Canadians similar to Americans?
- How are we different from them?
- How does Borg's critique apply to us?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How have Borg's chapters on politics and justice spoken to me?
2. What can I do in response to these chapters?
3. What can St. David's as a congregation do?

Housekeeping –

Start thinking about the book
you would like to study this winter

ACTS Advent Book Sale
Sundays November 26th, December 3rd

Next Readings

Session 10 - 27 November 2017

Chapter 10 and 11:

- Christians are Called to Peace and Nonviolence
- To Love God is to Love Like God
- OPENING:
- CLOSING:

check out sduc.ca/ministries/acts for links and notes

Closing

SALLY HODGES