

# Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: An Expository Essay



The renowned Author Marcus Borg hails from a Lutheran setting. During his youth, his understanding of Jesus was slightly different from the edition that was then taught to Catholics. In his book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, Jesus is explicitly portrayed as being the exquisitely begotten Son of God who died on the cross for the sin of all mankind. According to Borg Jesus message was revolve around his identity being the son of God, on the saving intention of his passing away as well as on the significance of believing in him. In culmination, the most important weight was on considering that Jesus was what he alleged he was and he was crucified for the sake of cleansing away our sins.

In addition, another minor emphasis has been that Jesus was and is still the greatest teacher. In both of the instances, Borg disputes, supply not only insufficient but mistaken portraits of the ancient Jesus, whose lifetime was "eventually anymore regarded as believing or else in relation to being good, but relating to a rapport with God that engages us in an expedition of self transformation."

I particularly found Borg's study of what stimulated the crisis and how he ultimate triumph as being very helpful for me. In his conclusion it is quite evident that the Christian way of life is not first and foremost with reference to believing but in relation to "entering into an affiliation with

whatever is pointed out by the Christian convention points, and which may be uttered of as God, the resurrected and living Christ, or the Spirit." Basically, a true believer bestows his or her association to God in the scaffold of the Christian custom.

Borg's personal experience accorded him the chance to come across the different images of Christ over time. In the first chapter of the book, Borg discusses his personal life and his view of Jesus at every stage of life. Throughout the intervening years, his earlier held beliefs were challenged. he generally argues that that there exists a strong correlation between images of Jesus and that of the Christian life; it is our own image of Jesus that will eventually give Christianity its shape and hence assist in determining whether Christianity will be realistic or incredible.

The pre-Easter Jesus is portrayed as valuing the spirit and compassion, and these formed what was central to him as he always acted in and was moved by compassion. Compassion summarized the teaching of Jesus as far as God and ethics are concerned. The teaching on compassion as taught by Jesus is recorded in the bible that, 'be compassionate as God is compassionate'. Jesus also used parables and aphorism to teach wisdom, and always grounded his believers by encouraging them to imitate God. In the same way he encouraged his followers to be compassionate just like God is, thus promoting ethics. Borg indicates that the word compassion means giving life, nourishing, caring, perhaps embracing and encompassing, is deeply rooted in the Jewish tradition. These teaching portray pre-Easter Jesus as a spiritual man. The pre Easter Jesus is the Jesus before his death and whom

people believe in, but does not and differs from the Jesus of faith in that the latter is the one people experience as reality.

Jesus is the wisdom of God made flesh. Early Movement traditions and gospels have continued to showcase Jesus as an emissary, child, and incarnation of the wisdom of God. Wisdom is one of the most important concepts that the New Testament associates with Jesus. Besides being a teacher of wisdom, is also portrayed as divine embodiment of wisdom and is referred to as the wisdom of God. Borg says that Jesus was a wisdom teacher who was in some sense the wisdom of God. Jesus taught subversive wisdom and spoke of a narrow path that leads to life. The wisdom that Jesus taught is evidenced by use of aphorisms and proverbs. This explanation raises the question of the humanity and the divinity of Jesus as well as the liaison linking Jesus and God.

The author presents two images of Jesus and the Christian: the popular image of Christ tells about Jesus, his position as the son of God, his dying on the cross purposely to save mankind from sin and the reason why one must believe in him. This teaching currently forms the core foundation of the Christian faith as it states the mission of Jesus and its significance to mankind. The teacher image of Christ prompts the Christian to develop a moralistic Christian life. The moralistic image of Christ leads many Christians to be good and to be good seeking as Jesus said. The author argues that besides these images being incomplete representations of the historical Jesus, they also lead to incomplete images of the Christian life. The author therefore introduces the third image of viewing Christianity as just belief without asking rational controversial questions.