

Theme 8, Part 2: Wisdom in the New Testament

“Wisdom concerns how to live.”
–Marcus Borg

🙏Prayer

🙏Jesus as a Wisdom Teacher

Jesus invites his hearers to *leave conventional wisdom behind* in order to *live by an alternative wisdom...*
...and by invitation.

Conventional wisdom	Jesus' alternative wisdom
God is punitive lawgiver and judge	God is gracious
A person's worth is determined by measuring up to social standards	All persons have infinite worth as a children of God
Sinners and outcasts are to be avoided and rejected	Everyone is welcome around the table and in the kingdom of God
Identity comes from social tradition	Identity comes from centering in the sacred, from relationship with God
Strive to be first	The first shall be last...; those who exalt themselves will be emptied...
Preserve one's own life above all	The path of dying to self and being reborn leads to life abundant
Fruit of striving is reward	Fruit of centering in God is compassion

Questions to ponder...

1. How do you apply Jesus' alternative wisdom?
2. Think of an issue in your life or in the world today.
 - ◆ What does conventional wisdom say about it?
 - ◆ How does Jesus' invitation to see differently affect your perspective and response to the issue?
3. What would it mean to radically center your life in God instead of culture?