



## January 13th, 2024 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[Participant] : What is the possibility that someone might say a little about what the word “deconstruct” means in this context? I looked it up online and unfortunately, I’m still not understanding.

[Participant] : Hello from San Diego

[Participant] : Hello from Silver Spring MD

[Participant] : Good morning from frozen West Linn, Oregon!

[Participant] : Good morning, from OKC.

[Participant] : YEs, greetings from frozen Bellingham, WA

[Participant] : Welcome to Second Saturday! We are so glad that you are here. We look forward to our time together.

[Participant] : Greetings from snowy Vancouver WASHINGTON

[Participant] : Greetings from UK

[Participant] : good morning from Sacramento California

[Participant] : hello from freezing Island Lake, IL!

[Participant] : Good morning from sunny but cold San Diego CA!

[Participant] : Hello from Tucson and St. Alban's Episcopal Church that will host Diana Butler Bass on the weekend of February 3-5.

[Participant] : Hello, from Bend OR. 0 degrees and heavy snow.

[Participant] : I’m not sure that this message got posted so I’m going to post it again. What is the possibility that someone might say a little about what the word “deconstruct” means in this context? I looked it up online and unfortunately, I’m still not understanding.

[Participant] : Good evening from Yorkshire, England. Apologies but I may have to quit at short notice during the session.

[Participant] : Hello from snowy Ottawa, Canada

[Participant] : Reverse engineering. Kind of.

[Participant] : Greetings also from the UK! (South Wales, specifically)

[Participant] : Good morning from Milwaukee where it's a bright sunny 24 F

[Participant] : good morning from rainy CA....newbie to the group here

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : Good morning from Boston, MA

[Participant] : Good afternoon from London, Ontario, Canada

[Participant] : Deconstruct=start with clean slate. Reconstruct=look with new eyes.

[Participant] : Greetings , Good early Sunday morning Marianne and Jack Caputo from Jakarta , Indonesia

[Participant] : Good morning from South TX

[Participant] : Good afternoon from Belvidere, NJ

[Participant] : I was born in Jakarta..:-)

[Participant] : It is a blessing to be here

[Participant] : The question from Betty might be very useful for the whole group. What indeed is deconstruction? If I am not mistaken, it really emerged with Jacques Derrida, but even speaking French, the whole concept is pretty hermetic to me too... :-)

[Participant] : [Participant], thank you.

[Participant] : Good morning from Newport on the Oregon Coast

[Participant] : Good afternoon from Cape May, NJ!

[Participant] : Hello from Saint Joseph, Missouri. 3 degrees, wind chill minus 18. About 6 inches of snow.

[Participant] : Good morning from British Columbia, Canada:)

[Participant] : Good Morning from Lake Tahoe

[Participant] : Good morning from 19 degree cold Seattle, Washington

[Participant] : Greetings from occupied ancestral lands of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, currently administered by the City of Palo Alto.

[Participant] : It is 42 below zero wind chill in Aberdeen SD. Hello from [Participant]

[Participant] : Greetings from West Hartford, CT

[Participant] : Greetings from Oxfordshire England. It's evening here. Thanks for having the program at a time of availability.

[Participant] : It is in the 50's in Boston today, which is pretty strange for this time of year.

[Participant] : Go to the security tab at the bottom of the screen and deselect participants can share screen

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : Please feel free to share your thoughts in the chat as well as raising your hand to speak directly with Marianne. The recording will capture the chat as well and Marianne always reads the chat following our session.

[Participant] : Creativity, Imagination, Emergence

[Participant] : How can God be hidden in the homeless, addicted, abused.... I still cannot process this idea in light of today's urban areas, Gaza and Ukraine. Sigh

[Participant] : Deepak Chopra's book THE THIRD JESUS was remarkable for me. He describes Jesus from his Christian upbringing coupled with his Hindu culture as a provocateur in the sense of disrupting the status quo of thinking.

[Participant] : A teacher of enlightenment, in other words.

[Participant] : Highly recommend The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault. Closely aligned with what Marianne, Brandon, and Jack are imagining.

[Participant] : Agree about THE WISDOM JESUS.

[Participant] : Jesus the archetype of the interconnection of divine and material or all creation.

[Participant] : Jesus as a very high (the highest?) level of moral development.

[Participant] : I'm not clear about how the world changed between the time before Jesus lived and the time after he lived.

[Participant] : Jesus lures us and all creation beyond morals.

[Participant] : I wonder what action(s) are we being called to at the moment in time when the world seems to be on fire??

[Participant] : What a great presentation, Marianne... thank you.

[Participant] : Thanks!

[Participant] : I think it's important to hold on to/lay claim to Jesus' radical vision of love, of who is worthy (all of us, but especially the least among us), and what it means to care for each other. It's so needed in the world. I really worry that some of the loudest voices speaking about Jesus' don't share this vision. An understatement. We need to proclaim/offer an alternative vision of the possibility of Jesus.

[Participant] : Could we have the Polish poet's name and poem title if possible please?

[Participant] : Would it be possible to have a copy of the list of participating and speaking in a group.

[Participant] : Is Democracy compatible with having someone in charge?

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : We need Jesus as a functional ICON. That leads us through the changes, surprised, required....

[Participant] : Jesus is just a moral teacher??

[Participant] : Please post the quote and book on the screen prior to the program today.

[Participant] : Which Phyllis Tickle book is Sheila referring to??

[Participant] : We cannot speak in such generalities about Jesus in modern America. Fundamentalism and nationalism has replaced Jesus for many.

[Participant] : Which God to "worship"? God is the CREATOR..God is within us...Thomas Merton "You will know God when you know your Truest self".....manifest the depth of our soul...manifest the beauty energy within us..we are mystics in our own right (matthew Fox)..

[Participant] : Tickle says we are changing the question of authority. The church as the authority then it was scripture and looking for the next.

[Participant] : I just finished the Homebrewed Christianity class "Cosmic Christ." Could Marianne get Phil Clayton as a guest? He addresses many of the issues raised today.

[Participant] : Yes, Phil Clayton

[Participant] : Wow... great conversation!

[Participant] : Thank you for emphasizing Jesus Christ as human being.

[Participant] : If I had no knowledge of Jesus or other religious figures what would be my anchor and guide my life? I would be empty of the unknown knowns that exist but are not seen by me. So then what? How would I define values that are worthy of consideration? Is collective wellbeing the goal?

[Participant] : Jesus had time in the desert, Siddhartha Buddha had time under the Bodhi Tree

[Participant] : Alfred Whitehead talks of God as creativity.

[Participant] : I appreciate a rhythm of Awaken - Risk - Bless. Evolve our individual and collective consciousness (Christ/Non-dual consciousness) - Engage with the social justice and environmental issues that keep many on the margins - Bless speaks for itself.

[Participant] : Thanks, Janet. That is really a helpful point, about worship.

[Participant] : That is helpful to view Jesus as a window to the Divine.

[Participant] : On an iPad, the mute is at the right hand top, not bottom of the screen—just different placement (the chat and camera icons are also at the right top).

[Participant] : Thanks, Marianne and everyone

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : "They" will have the power, not "us"

[Participant] : On that note, be sure to read Jack Caputo's book, "What would Jesus deconstruct?"

[Participant] : Organized religions...has pulled us away from the God of love..the God of creation...

[Participant] : Unity in Diversity

[Participant] : Just to play devil's advocate: Bureaucracy and structure is one way of anchoring a conversation - giving it consistent being in the world. Perhaps our problem is that we conflate God and Jesus with the bureaucracy and the structure? If we could hold our "sacred" church bureaucracy as NOT SACRED, but human, and hold it lightly, and acknowledge its frailty - perhaps that would make something possible.

[Participant] : the world is still in creation and we are part of this creative Spirits..

[Participant] : I just want to say that I still grieve that Marcus Borg is gone. I love it that you are carrying on his legacy.

[Participant] : For me, I think that the bureaucracy comes out of our need to be sure about something- to know, to codify, to tie down - and deconstruction is an antidote to that - to continually hold open the question, to give up having to know, over and over again.

[Participant] : The women were at the cross b/c they did not pose a threat.

[Participant] : Thank you - the challenge to see the similar in the dissimilar

[Participant] : Not sure that if we were to say that God is more than Love, we could have know what God might actually represent. If we could worship Love and only then iive loving each and everyone of us, poverty and conflicts would be eradicated. The face that we have far more in common than divide us.

[Participant] : What Bruce just said--read The Not-Yet God by Ilia Delio.

[Participant] : Wisdom Jesus excellent so is Chopra also highly recommend Adyashanti Resurrecting Jesus

[Participant] : Also Richard Rohr Universal Christ

[Participant] : Yes

[Participant] : The Wisdom of Uncertainty by Alan Watts. Stay in the present.

[Participant] : Feet planted firmly in mid air.....

[Participant] : Essential questions keep the door open. Answering the question shuts the door.

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : Jesus is intuition of the divine. LOVE IT!!

[Participant] : Lynne YES YES YES

[Participant] : Putting on the Mind of Christ by Jim Marion and Ken Wilbur Brief History of Everything and Integral Psychology

[Participant] : So many good books. Love Ken Wilber and Jim Marion.

[Participant] : Does anyone know who Jim quoted?

[Participant] : Liked immigration solution but disagree with Marianne in idea of increasing church membership. Only if they chose that. Motive not to convert, but assist them at their level..

[Participant] : Which quote?

[Participant] : In the live conversation.

[Participant] : Yes, following Jesus is more important than worshipping Jesus for me. It seems to me that in the sacramental Eucharistic celebration we tend to idolize Jesus. I ask if Jesus is really present and we accept that then what do we do with that? How to we take the Real Presence into our daily living? Secondly, God is love is not a feeling . Rather it is an action. Everything in the cosmos is subject to the physical and mystical laws of attraction. Knowing that I would ask why does love exist?

[Participant] : Which quote was the quote.

[Participant] : Thank you so much for including Bob Dylan in the conversation; he wrote a song, "I Contain Multitudes."

[Participant] : Like: we are responsible . Change begins with us.

[Participant] : Have not heard that song in a long time...Thanks.

[Participant] : Love what you said about democratization of mysticism and saying that Marcus had those experiences

[Participant] : I recently heard the New Testament scholar and professor Amy-Jill Levine who spoke at Luther Seminary in St Paul. What I recall from an earlier lecture by her is that Jesus call to Love God and Love Your Neighbor is embedded in the Hebrew Bible. What she has found truly unique about Jesus's teaching is to Love Your Enemy.

[Participant] : Lovely thoughts Sandra and Marianne!

[Participant] : Thank you. This is my first time. I look forward to February 10. Will I automatically be sent the Zoom link for this meeting?

*the*  
**MARCUS J BORG**  
*Foundation*

[Participant] : "We can extend the radius of knowledge, but that just increases the circumference of mystery." Wendell Berry. I would add that mystery often seeps through the boundary into the realm of our knowledge.

[Participant] : Check out Prayer of Examen by Daniel Harmon on YouTube.

[Participant] : If we truly believe every bush would be burning...

[Participant] : Mysticism - a human experience, available to all. No need to define as separated or spiritual? Just is!

[Participant] : Oh Jeff, perfect understanding that I have never gotten before! Thanks.

[Participant] : Thank you, Marianne for another great experience!

[Participant] : Sorry. Amen Examen, not Prayer of Examen.

[Participant] : Centering Prayer is my own practice for letting go of those categories which get in our way.

[Participant] : A good practice is to keep reading widely and to continue to show up and to continue to be in conversation, especially with those who see things differently. Interesting connections and insights can happen.

[Participant] : David Bohm says music may be the only thing we perceive directly (without categories), since we must hear the entire melody, not a collection of notes.

[Participant] : Hmm. This is an interesting discussion. Very helpful. I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA in the 1970's. I saw God all the time outside the streetcar window in downtown Pittsburgh in the bustle of crowded sidewalks. Now I see him in the small New England town I live in now.

[Participant] : Thank you, [Participant]!

[Participant] : That is the Sufi prayer of Remembrance.

[Participant] : I we have the time still, [Participant],, could you give the details of that poem/prayer?

[Participant] : Could it be possible hat we are always living in mysticism, just not know it until that shift occurs? We live as one in spirit; spiritual beings having a human experience.

[Participant] : Tuning fork to tune in to something we resonate with, like what you said Marianne

[Participant] : This is how we are bringing Christianity to life!

[Participant] : [Participant] great idea