

The Challenge of Paul (Part 4):

Jewish Covenant versus Roman Empire

Sunday, July 15 at 11:45 am in the Bloom Room

What if most of what we've been taught about the Apostle Paul is wrong? In the same way the radical Jesus was tamed into a transfigured being floating in the clouds, a radical Paul has been historically defamed as a woman hater, puritan, and homophobe who was also sympathetic to slavery. In this series of classes utilizing short videos and discussion, we will see how John Dominic Crossan, Irish-American New Testament scholar and historian of early Christianity, recasts Paul as the itinerant teacher who invited Romans and Jews into a life of resistance against Rome's oppressive regime of economic exploitation and occupational violence. Crossan's progressive biblical scholarship invites us to go deeper into the life of the first century missionary who imagined a human community in which all people, Jews, Gentiles, male, female, slave and free — in other words, everyone is invited to a common table around which everyone has enough.

*Facilitated by **Catherine Penn Williams**, a longtime presenter and small group leader for the adult spiritual programs at GSP. In the world she is a Jungian-oriented psychotherapist in private practice.*