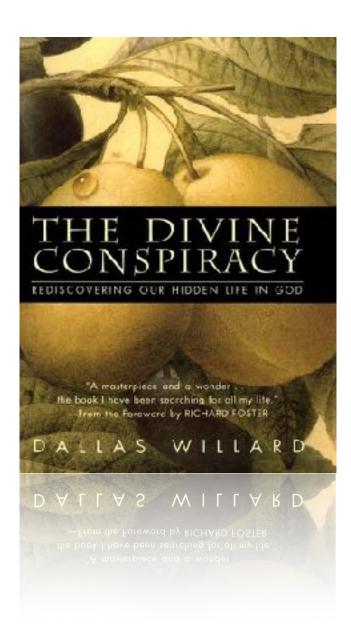
# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY – An Overview Study Guide



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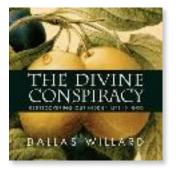
# **Post-Script from Jesus College**

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# Three Suggested "V-I-M"\*\* Participation Levels

ENJOY - *Peruse & Listen* — Overview the assigned chapter before each Session then join the weekly webinar to enjoy the dialogue.

PARTICIPATE - *Read & Inquire* — Read the entire chapter before each Session, take notes, and capture questions to bring to each Session.



RECEIVE - *Discipline* & *Engage* — Invest making this Course not simply a free webinar added to your routine, but an intentional discipline in your spiritual growth journey. Ideally, invite a partner to journey with you to better learn, apply & grow. Level 3 steps can include:

1) READ the assigned section/chapter before each Session. Capture notes in your book or electronically, reread the scriptures referenced, then review your notes again before the Session.

2) INQUIRE - Bring questions to digest the content and engage the presenters & other students. Linger longer for the "Q&C" after each Session.

3) VIEW - Enjoy (12) videos of Dallas Willard's teaching series, "THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY Lectures" on the **Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube channel**. Here is a PDF of 117 pages of notes from **The Divine Conspiracy Lecture Series** (from the Jesus College Library with other Courses and thousands of pages of notes & audio/video links from over 200 Dallas Willard resources.)

4) SOLITUDE - Invest solo time weekly spending an hour with Jesus discussing your key discovery from the week.

5) REFLECT - At the end of the Course, write yourself a letter or a journal entry summarizing the impact of the study.

<sup>[\*\*</sup> V-I-M = Vision-Intention-Means — Dallas calls this the reliable pattern for spiritual change, really any change. As you envision a life of hearing God and truly intend to want to hear God, you will seek and find the means to practice a life of hearing God. For more on V-I-M, see *Renovation of the Heart*, chapter 5 (*Webinar on the book*.) Another rich resource on V-I-M is in the *Life With God Bible* Introduction, xxv-xxxvi]

# 2022 Session Dates & Reading Schedule

DATE	E SESSION BOOK SECTION SESSION TITLE		SESSION TITLE				
January 12	ary 12 Session 1 Chapters 1-3 Jesus on Eternal		Jesus on Eternal Life Now				
- Suggested Reading: XVII; 5-6; <b>11-15</b> ; <b>27-28</b> ; 41-42; 58-59; 61-64; 79-82; <b>91-9</b>							
January 19	Session 2	Chapter 4	The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled				
- Suggested Re	ading: <b>97-98</b> ; 99-	100; 105-107; 114;	125-127				
January 26	Session 3	Chapter 5	Being Salt & Light Daily				
- Suggested Reading: 129-131; <b>134-135</b> ; 142-143; 147-149; <b>158</b> ; 180-181; <b>183</b> -185							
February 2	Session 4	Chapter 6	Reputation & Resources or God				
- Suggested Reading: 187-188; 200-201; 203; 207-208; 212; 213-214							
February 9	Session 5	Chapter 7	Community of Non-Condemnation				
- Suggested Reading: <b>215-217</b> ; 221-222; 231-232; 239-242; <b>250</b> ; 268-269							
February 16	Session 6	Chapter 8-10	Apprentice Makers				
- Suggested Reading: <b>273</b> ; 282-284; 291; 299; 309-310; <b>312</b> ; 315-316; <b>321-322</b> ; 347; 354, 375-376; 386-387; 396; <b>399-400</b>							

If you miss a Session, want to study more, or teach others the material, recorded Sessions + Slides PDF are posted in the <u>Jesus College Library</u> along with over 200 free Dallas Willard resources including 8 other Dallas Willard Courses.

Session 1 - "What Jesus Means by Eternal Life" Book Chapters 1-3 Suggested Reading: XVII; 5-6; 11-15; 27-28; 41-42; 58-59; 61-64; 79-82; 91-94

#### Theme — Apprentices of Jesus in Eternal Living - Matthew 4:17

**The Invitation -** *Word from a Different Reality* Chapter 1

A World Historical Force - Doorway to Life that is truly life (12-13) John 10:9-10 & 1:4

The Habitation of the Eternal = the Kingdom of God Now at Hand Colossians 3:1-4

The Ordinary (14) & The Eternal (58)

**The Invitation Diminished** The Gospel on the Right & the Left - Chapter 2

The Case of the Missing Teacher - *Learning how to live our lives like Jesus* (58)

**The Invitation Experienced** A God Bathed World - Chapter 3

God's Joyous Being - Our inconceivably beautiful and good world (62-64)

The Spiritual Reality - Our Spirit/Will is central (79-80) and substantial (80-82)

Jesus Master of Intellect Colossians 2:3 (91-95)

Session 1 Meditation & Application

Colossians 1:15-17; 2:1-3; 9-10

- 1. Is Jesus a sufficient guide and mentor in my ordinary life of money, love, business, housing? Do I think and pray like He has all "wisdom and knowledge"? (Colossians 2:3)
- 2. What does God's governance over my life mean to me? (A major theme in the book)
- 3. What will I do to "enroll with serious intent in Jesus' school of life"? (93)

Video "The Divine Conspiracy Series" - Session 2 @ 1:12:10 - End

# Session 2 - "The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled"

Book Chapter 4 Suggested Reading: **97-98**; 99-100; 105-107; 114; 125-127

#### Theme — The Direct Availability of the Kingdom Among Us - Matthew 5:2

#### **The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled** (100)

Spiritual Zeros under Heaven's Care (100-102) Matthew 4:19-23

The Beatitudes - Explanations and Illustrations, not Legalism's How-To's (106)

Jesus the Teacher - How & What & Why He Taught His Way

How - Contextually & Concretely (107)

What - Correct prevailing assumptions - to challenge worldview (107)

Why - Aimed his sayings at hearts and habits in daily life (114)

**The Beatitudes** - Their Purpose (114-122) made Personal (122-127)

God's grubby people in the Kingdom among us (125)

Salt & Light - The only ones who can actually make the world work. (125)

#### Meditation & Application Matthew 5:1-13

1. How does my belief put me in a place to engineer my way into God's good graces?

2. What about Jesus as a Teacher strikes me - what he said, how he said it, why he said it?

3. How am I cultivating my "quietly transforming friendship with Jesus"? (124)

Video "<u>The Divine Conspiracy Series</u>" - Sessions 7 @ 0:00-10:25 & @10 @ 30:35-42:50

# Session 3 - "Being Salt & Light Daily"

Book Chapter 5 Suggested Reading: 129-131; **134-135**; 142-143; 147-149; **158**; 180-181; **183**-185

#### Theme — Agape Love: True Inner Goodness - Matthew 5:20

#### **Master of Moral Understanding** (129-139)

Jesus knows how to enable people to be good (129-130)

The Brilliance of Jesus - One Final Look (134 and 55, 93-95)

**The Law & The Soul** (139-147) Matthew 5:17-20

Righteousness - "Dikaiosune" = *True Inner Goodness* (145)

#### Salt & Light in Six Areas of Daily Life - Matthew 5:21-48

Anger & Contempt - *The first and fundamental step of a Kingdom heart* (147) Fantasized Desire Hardness of Heart Divorce Transparent Words Non-Retaliation Love for Enemies

**The Kingdom Heart -** *Agape* (133, 137, 143, 147, 156, 157, 158, 182, 183, 184, 185)

Living the Great Inversion (178, 88, 90) - Not as Jesus did but as He was (183)

#### Meditation & Application Mark 7:21-23; II Peter 3:18

1. What is the condition of tenderness of my heart? (172)

2. Honestly, how angry am I? How conditioned are my body, my mouth, my spirit to be angry?

3. What Kingdom resources can I engage to resolve difficulties in my closest relationships? (172)

Video "The Divine Conspiracy Series" - Sessions 7 @ 10:25-16:35 & #10 @ 06:50-19:15

# Session 4 - "Reputation & Resources or God"

Book Chapter 6 Suggested Reading: **187-188**; 200-201; 203; 207-208; 212; 213-214

### Theme — Kingdom Trust - Matthew 6:33

#### Reputation — The Respectability Trap - Matthew 6:1-18 - Salt & Light Area #7

Who is your audience? 1st - Not hide our good deeds (189) 2nd - What we expect from our action (190)

Means of Grace - Disciplines of Giving, Praying, Fasting - The Discipline of Secrecy (200)

Ineffective Gathered Christians - The aim of human approval (202)

#### Resource — The Bondage of Wealth - Matthew 6:19-34 - Salt & Light Area #8

Treasure - Spirit, Will, Dignity Matthew 6:19-20 (203)

Life from the Heart Matthew 6:21-24 (206-208) "Now" (208 - 8 times) "The Kingdom Among Us" (208 + 33 times more in the book)

Worth & Worry - Trust God Matthew 6:25-34

*The character of divine love* (212)

"In this world you will have trouble..." John 16:33 (213)

#### **Session 4 Meditation & Application** John 5:36-44; Philippians 4:4-7

- 1. Who am I trying to impress? Why do their opinions matter so much to me?
- 2. What is one action through which I will practice the Discipline of Secrecy this week?
- 3. What treasures uncover idols in my life? How can I fast from it/them in an easy, experimental way, ideally with joy? What is God revealing about trusting and treasuring His Kingdom?

Video "<u>The Divine Conspiracy Series</u>" - Session 12 @ 0:00 - 29:40

### Session 5 - "Community of Non-Condemnation"

Book Chapter 7 Suggested Reading: **215-217**; 221-222; 231-232; 239-242; **250**; 268-269

#### Theme — Living the Golden Rule - Matthew 7:12

#### **No Condemnation**

Matthew 7:1-12 *Kingdom Agape toward others* (217)

Abandon Condemning & Blaming (217)

Who Can "Correct" — Confirmed Sin...by the Mature...to Restore...without Contempt

Condemnation with Anger & Contempt = Shame (221-222)

When Good Things Becomes Deadly Matthew 7:6 - Dogs & Hogs (228-231)

**The Request — The Heart of Community** Matthew 7:7-12 (231-239)

The Dynamic of the Request through The Continuum of Prayer On Not Getting What We Ask For - 1) Under our control 2) Not under our control

Prayer in the Cosmic Setting - "Kingdom Praying	" (249-250)
1.) Prayer = Request	4.) A Universe Responsive to Personality
2.) Praying Life	5.) Training Us to Reign
3.) Changing God	6.) Waiting for God to move
	7.) God's Dignity

The Grandest Prayer of All - Matthew 6:9-13 - 5 Requests in the Lord's Prayer (253-269)

- i. Hallowed be Thy Name (258)
- ii. Thy Kingdom Come (260)
- iii.Give Daily Bread Daily (261)
- iv.Don't Punish Us for Wrong (264-265)
- v. Don't Put us to the Test (265)

### Meditation & Application Romans 8:1 *applied like* Galatians 6:1

1. What is/was the presence of condemnation in my family? Marriage? Work?

- 2. What are the top 3 obstacles to me "talking to God about what you are doing together"?
- 3. Praying the Lord's Prayer one morning, lunch and evening. Focus on a word or phrase.

Video "The Divine Conspiracy Series" - Session 12 @ 29:40-40:12

## Session 6 - "Apprentice Makers"

Book Chapters 8-10 Suggested Reading: 273; 282-284; 291; 299; 309-310; 312; 315-316; 321-322; 347; 354 375-376; 386-387; 396; 399-400

#### Theme — Make Disciples and Teach Them to Obey My Commands - Matthew 28:18-20

Who is Our Teacher? - Chapter 8 - Students constantly seek to be in His presence. Col. 3:17

How to Be & Become a Disciple - Doing what Jesus does or become who Jesus is. (282-283)

"I am learning how to live my life as He would live my life if He were I."

Help Others Find Their Way into Discipleship - Becoming Apprentice Makers

Be Disciples - *If we would make disciples, we should be disciples.* (299) Changing People's Real Beliefs - *Ravishing them with a vision of life in the kingdom.* (305) The Only Way Forward - "*The purposes of God will eventually be realized.*" (310)

A Curriculum of Christlikeness - Chapter 9	"Do what I say"	Matthew 7:24-25, 28:20
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The Case of the Missing Teacher...Again Face this fact and change it." (316)

#### **Getting Clear on Two Primary Objectives**

I. Enthralling the Mind with God (321) II. Acquiring Habits of Goodness (341-352)

The Golden Triangle of Spiritual Growth: Holy Spirit, Real Life & Planned Disciplines

**The Restoration of All Things -** Chapter 10 (375-400) I John 3:1-2

Why We Must See God's Future for Us - As good and as large as God Himself. (375-376)

#### Meditation & Application Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 12:1-2

1. "Who teaches you? Whose disciple are you? Honestly." (271)

- 2. "*I am learning how to live my life as He would live my life if He were I.*" How might this impact my role in everyday life at home and work?
- 3. How is this fresh hearing of the Kingdom Among Us changing me as an Apprentice of Jesus?

4. How big is God's future for me and those whom I love?

Video "The Divine Conspiracy Series" - Sessions 11 1:00:50-1:08:00 & #4 @ 1:23:45-1:27:50

# Additional Resources for THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Jesus College Library offers over 65 resources on THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY by Dallas Willard including a book Study Guide (see below), (2) webinar Courses from Jesus College & Dallas Willard Ministries, and video links to two teaching presentations by Dallas are posted in the Jesus College Library. -> Stay in touch for a planned encore of the 31 Session Course in 2022!

You can also find (7) Sermon on the Mount resources in the <u>Jesus College</u> Library "Teaching Tools" including a "Worry Free Living" presentation.

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The Divine Conspiracy book Study Guide (PDF - 34 Pages)

"Saddle Up" the Sermon on the Mount - Practice One Daily for 30 Days

Command (30)	Discipline(s)
Matthew 5-7	Listen to and/or read the text once daily
Salt	Speak "Salt" Hourly; Act "Salt" Hourly; Identify trampled others
Light	Planned Kindness; Perform Secrecy Acts anonymously
Practice/Teach Commands	Psalms/Proverbs Memorization; "Law Practice" - OT & Modern Day
Be reconciled	Altar halt; "Alternate Dispute Resol. (ADR); Planned Appeasement
Not look to lust	One eye/hand Day; "My sister/My brother" prayers for pretty & not
Divorce	Pray for/serve the Divorced; Study Marriage scriptures
Oaths/Not swear	"Yes or No" - One word answers for the day
Turn the Cheek	Not have last word; Avoid withdrawal; Stifle Sarcasm
Coat	Clothing Donation; Repeat wearing outfits
2nd Mile	Intentional Service; Use a Cane/Crutch/Wheelchair for the day
Give & Loan	\$ Donation; Seek Borrower(s)
Love Enemies	Keep score of how much you're keeping score
Be perfect	Pray "Father, as you will"; Seek moments to act perfect
Giving	Secrecy; Tithe for a period; Bless strangers
Prayer	Practice few word prayers; Pray out loud privately
Lord's Prayer	Breathe it for a day; Recite Hourly
Fasting	Fast - 1 meal or 1 day; "Fast Driving Fast"
Treasures	Generosity; Simplicity Living period (day, week)
Eye Lamp	Alter (altar) viewing of TV, reading, internet
One Master	Celebration/Gratitude; Spending Freeze Days
No Worries	Creation Walks; "Pagan Run" self evaluation
Kingdom Seeking	"Thy Kingdom Come"; Kneel; Drive in the slow lane; Worry-ometer
Don't Judge	Log Eye List; Extended Solitude
Pearl Pelting	No Opinion Zone; Extended Silence
A.S.KAsk, Seek, Knock	"Didn't Ask = Don't Tell"; Ask "Your thoughts?"; Asking Prayers
Golden Rule	"How may I serve you?"; Myself List & Myself-less
Narrow Gate	Gate/road sightings walk; Make a list of personal/spiritual gates
Wolf Hunting	My "Fruit" definitions; Modern day wolves
Father's Will	Intentional Obedience/Sacrifice; Read "Father" scriptures
Father's Will Rock House Practice	Audio Bible Texts; "Storm Tossed Watch" self evaluation

Compiled by Doug Webster, JesusCollege.com

Chap.	Pages	Sessions (31)	
1	33	4	
2	25	1.5	
3	35	3.5	
4	32	3	
5	58	4 THE DIVINE Conspiracy	
6	28		
7	56	4	
8	40	4 A materies and a warder	
9	64	the book I have been secreting for allma life. From the Resource by RIC-4ABD FOSTER	
10	26	DALLAS WILLARD	
# Pages	Chapter	Theme	Video
<u>1. 1-13</u>	1	Entering Eternal Life Now	DC** #2 - 1:12:10
2. 13-21	1	Entering The Ordinary	DC/Dallas & Ortber
3. 21-28	1	Made to Rule	
4. 28-33	1	Many Kingdoms	
5. 35-55	2	The Invitation Diminished	DC #5 1:10:20
6. 55-66	2/3	Missing Teacher; What Jesus Knew: God Bathed World	
7. 66-78	3	Re-Visioning God, Heavens as Human Environment	1 0110 (1119 0 0000 (212
8. 79-91	3	All Things Visible; Death Dismissed; Which is Up?	DC #3 9:00-15:27
	-		DC #3 53:40-57:40
9.91-95	3	Jesus as Master Intellect	Larissa H's Eulogy
10.97-106	4	Puzzle of Beatitudes	DC#7 0:00-10:25
11.107-114	4	Dealing with the Soul in Depth	DC #7 - Soul - 39:30
12.114-127	4	What Jesus Had in Mind; Making The Message Personal	
13. 129-147	5	Master; Law & Soul	DC #7 - 10:25-16:35
			DC #10 - 6:50-19:15
14. 147-158	5	Anger & Contempt	DC #11 - 0-21:05/48
15.158-173		Fantasized Desire, Adultery & Divorce	DC #11-48:00-1:08:
16. 173-185	5	Transparent Words; Unquenchable Love; Love Enemies	
17.187-202		Respectability Trap	DC #12 - 0:00-21:10
18.203-214		Bondage of Wealth	DC #12 - 21:10-29:4
10 015 007		No Condomnation	DC #12 20.40 41.0

# Full 31 Session Course available in Jesus College Library

1. 1 12	1		De 112.10
2. 13-21	1	Entering The Ordinary	DC/Dallas & Ortberg
3.21-28	1	Made to Rule	_
4. 28-33	1	Many Kingdoms	
5.35-55	2	The Invitation Diminished	DC #5 1:10:20
6. 55-66	2/3	Missing Teacher; What Jesus Knew: God Bathed World	Following Jesus (2:33)
7.66-78	3	Re-Visioning God, Heavens as Human Environment	
8. 79-91	3	All Things Visible; Death Dismissed; Which is Up?	DC #3 9:00-15:27
			DC #3 53:40-57:40
9. 91-95	3	Jesus as Master Intellect	Larissa H's Eulogy
10. 97-106	4	Puzzle of Beatitudes	DC#7 0:00-10:25
11.107-114	4	Dealing with the Soul in Depth	DC #7 - Soul - 39:30-??
12.114-127	4	What Jesus Had in Mind; Making The Message Personal	DC #10 - 30:35-42:50
13. 129-147	5	Master; Law & Soul	DC #7 - 10:25-16:35
			DC #10 - 6:50-19:15
14. 147-158	5	Anger & Contempt	DC #11 - 0-21:05/48:00
15.158-173	5	Fantasized Desire, Adultery & Divorce	DC #11-48:00-1:08:00+
16. 173-185	5	Transparent Words; Unquenchable Love; Love Enemies	DC#11-1:08:00-1:12:35
17.187-202	6	Respectability Trap	DC #12 - 0:00-21:10
18. 203-214	6	Bondage of Wealth	DC #12 - 21:10-29:40
19. 215-227	7	No Condemnation	DC #12 - 29:40-41:00
20. 228-239	7	When Good Things Be Deadly&Request as Community	DC #12 - 41:00-48:45
21. 239-253	7	Prayer	DC#12 - 57:30-1:16:00
22. 253-269	7	The Lord's Prayer	DC#12 1:16:00-1:19:15
23. 271-281	8	Our Teacher	"Grace"
24. 281-291	8	How to Be & Become a Disciple	Theo & Disc. @Work
25. 291-299	8	Become a Disciple	DC #5 24:25-38:05
26. 299-310	8	Help Others Become Disciples	DC #5 45:40-1:00:40
27.311-320	9	The Master Class	DC #9 1:05-1:12
28. 320-341	9	Clear Objectives & Enthralling Mind with God	
29. 341-352	9	Acquiring Habits of Goodness	DC9 Intro, #8 15:10-18:20
30. 352-373	9	Disciplines; Steps & Church Life	DC#11 1:00:50-1:08:00
31. 375-394	10	Restoration of All	DC #4 1:23:45-1:27:50
** - DC =	"THE DIV	INE CONSPIRACY" series, Harvey Fellows 2007 Summer Ins	stitute
		which it is a state of the second state of the	



# Full 31 Session Course Reading Schedule (Hardback & Paperback)

-> Stay in touch for a planned encore of the 31 Session Course in 2022!

Date	Hardback Pages	Paperback Pages	Chapter	Theme
12-Jan	p1 - 13	p7 - 20	1	Entering Eternal Life Now
19-Jan	13-21	20-28	1	Entering the Ordinary
26-Jan	22-28	29-36	1	Made to Rule
2-Feb	28-33	37-41	1	Many Kingdoms
9-Feb	35-55	42-64	2	Invite Diminished
16-Feb	55-66	65-76	2&3	Missing Teacher; Re-Visioning God
23-Feb	66-78	77-90	3	Heavens as Human Environment
2-Mar	79-91	90-104	3	All Things Visible; Death Dismissed; Which is Up?
9-Mar	91-95	104-109	3	Jesus as Master Intellect
16-Mar	97-106	111-121	4	Puzzle of Beatitudes
23-Mar	107-114	121-130	4	Dealing with the Soul in Depth - Jesus as Teacher
30-Mar	114-127	130-143	4	What Jesus Had in Mind & Making The Message Personal
6-Apr	129-147	145-164	5	Master; Law & Soul
13-Apr	147-158	164-177	5	Anger & Contempt
20-Apr	158-173	177-193	5	Fantasized Desire, Adultery & Divorce
27-Apr	173-185	193-206	5	Transparent Words; Unquenchable Love; Love Enemies
4-May	187-202	207-224	6	Respectability Trap
11-May	203-214	224-236	6	Bondage of Wealth
18-May	215-227	237-250	7	No Condemnation
25-May	228-239	251-263	7	When Good Things Become Deadly & Request as Community
1-Jun	239-253	263-278	7	Prayer
8-Jun	253-269	279-296	7	The Lord's Prayer
15-Jun	271-281	297-308	8	Our Teacher
22-Jun	281-291	308-319	8	How to Be & Become a Disciple
29-Jun	291-299	319-327	8	Become a Disciple
6-Jul	299-310	327-339	8	Help Others Become Disciples
13-Jul	311-320	341-350	9	The Master Class
20-Jul	320-341	351-373	9	Clear Objectives & Enthralling Mind with God
27-Jul	341-352	374-386	9	Acquiring Habits of Goodness
3-Aug	353-373	386-408	9	Disciplines; Steps & Church Life
10-Aug	375-394	409-436	10	Restoration of All
		prepared by	Doug Webster	r <u>~ JesusCollege.com</u>

# "THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY" Lecture Series by Dallas Willard

1.) <u>12 Video Sessions - Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel</u>

# 2.) <u>117 pages of notes compiled by Jesus Clollege</u> \*

\* Lecture Notes Table of Contents (compiled by Jesus College)

#1	Jesus & Culture	p. 2	1:13:02
#2	Human Nature	p. 11	1:19:44
#3	God and His Kingdom	p. 21	1:14:00
#4	Kingdom of God	p. 30	1:53:00
#5	Salvation Confusion & Discipleship	p. 42	1:18:56
#6	Kingdom Salvation	p. 50	1:10:15
#7	Kingdom Goodness in the Whole Self	p. 58	1:00:53
#8	Process of Transformation	p. 67	38:24
#9	Church Communities	p. 74	1:34:18
#10	Kingdom Living: Mt. 5:1-20 Beatitudes	p. 85	42:50
#11	Kingdom Living: Mt. 5:21-48	p. 90	1:21:00
#12	Kingdom Living: Mt. 6 & 7	p. 99	1:19:15
	Total Running Time — 14:45:00		
~ Hic	ghlights by Topic	p. 107-117	

### THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY 365

A daily read through Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy* by Doug Webster

#### INTRODUCTION

Here are 365 gems from a life altering, world changing, eternity revealing treatise on what Dallas Willard presents as the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ — access to life in the Kingdom of God Among Us now at hand. Willard intends to elevate the most intelligent, smartest person in history to His rightful and appropriate position as history's greatest and most profound Master Teacher.

The objective of *The Divine Conspiracy* ("The Book") is to help the reader as an Apprentice of Jesus, "Learn how to live my life as He would live my life if He were I." (p. 282) Through this transformational training, you and I will become the kind of people who will naturally and readily do what Jesus commanded. In so doing, we will become a Kingdom Man, a Kingdom Woman, a prince or princess of the King and sibling of the Savior who lives the Sermon on the Mount. In so doing, God will raise up a trinitarian community of love with God at the center. Kingdom Families and Kingdom Communities as Churches will form naturally.

The Content — The Book is divided into 365 "Sections". Each of the sections are direct quotes from The Book. There are approximately 390 pages in the hardback, so each Section is portions from about 1 1/2 pages of The Book.

The Reflection — Each section offers a few words, most often in the form of questions, for you to consider how to live out a message drawn from the particular part of The Book. The form of the reflection is drawn from one of the three key areas of application from The Book, namely the V-I-M: Vision - Intention - Means. To best reflect upon what you read is to enact Dallas Willard's definition of "repent: think about your thinking. Have a thought about your thoughts in the light of this new fact that the rule of God is now immediately available for you to live in." To better repent is to move the word solely from its common, if not sole position in "guilt", (although that may accompany your reflection), to a place of "growth" in grace. To grow in grace to more effectively and fruitfully repent requires a much broader, richer understanding of what grace means. That requirement can be found most powerfully and practically in your journey through The Book.

The Journey — I consider The Book to be the second best book ever published, second to what has often times been called The Big Book - The Bible. I recommend readers not simply read the *The Divine Conspiracy*, but as some have suggested as can be the case with other wise, insightful, challenging great writers like C.S. Lewis — "receive the book". To receive a book takes time. For that reason, you now have a guide to spend the next year reading through The Book. I go as far to advise you spend the next decade reading it. If this is your first time through *The Divine Conspiracy*, you will build a strong foundation of life with Jesus through his Sermon on the Mount upon which you can expand another nine years. Remember, the purpose is to become more like Jesus Christ not finish reading a book.

Maximizing the Journey — A final recommendation: Take three things along with you for the next year: The Bible, a Journal, and a Friend or three. Keep the Word of God — The Big Book, the best book ever published — close at hand, literally referring back and forth as you see Dallas reference scripture. Journaling may be as simple as notes in the margin of The Book's printed pages. Journaling may be a written prayer following your reading. A bound notebook or adding lined pages to a 3 ring notebook are two simple and affordable ways to maximize your journey. Of course, typing your thoughts into a software program for posterity and future study will offer you accessible means by which to re-visit your observations, especially months later, through an easy word search in your document. A third recommendation is to not take the journey solo. Invite a friend to be your "Emmaus Partner" as you two (or few) walk with Emmanuel inviting Him to reveal everything about Himself in the Scriptures. (Luke 24:13-32)

The Invitation — This 365 day format is intentionally simple. The Book's content is deep and challenging enough. In the simplicity of a daily layout, you are offered clarity, brevity, and manageability to flesh out mere Christlikeness over the next year. Consider the word "mere" defined as "that is solely or no more or better than what is specified." It can also present "the smallest or slightest." When you place the word "Mere" before the word "Christianity" you realize there is tremendous depth of understanding to clarify something to its "mere" level, for it becomes not smaller, but more defined in Vision, more direct in Intention, and more daily in Means of application. The "mere" form becomes the case where there is no more or better way to present than what is already specified.

The Prayer — It is my prayer before the King that you will find the same enriched, life changing, fresh hearing of Jesus as I and countless others have following as an Apprentice after the Master through *The Divine Conspiracy*. I pray your daily prayer will be merely, "Our Father, your Kingdom come, your will be done in and through me today as it is in the Heavens where you reign, where what you want done is done."

- SAMPLE ROUGH DRAFT - "Day 1- 22" - created by Doug Webster for ministry purposes, not for sale

To request a larger sample of this work in progress, email info@JesusCollege.com

Sample of Day One is on the next page

# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY 365

### DAY ONE

THE BIG BOOK — "God's care for humanity was so great that He sent His unique Son among us, so that those who count on Him might not lead a futile and failing existence, but have the undying life of God Himself." (John 3:16 paraphrase) (The Book, p.1)

THE BOOK — Life in the Dark (p. 1-2)

"Recently a pilot was practicing high-speed maneuvers in a jet fighter. She turbid the controls for what she thought was a steep ascent — and flew straight into the ground. She was unaware that she had been flying upside down.

This is a parable of human existence in our times—not exactly that everyone is crashing, though there is enough of that—but most of us as individuals, and world society as a whole, live at high-speed and often with no clue, to whether we are flying upside down or right-side up. Indeed, we are haunted by a strong suspicion that there may be no difference— or at least that it is unknown or irrelevant."

THE REFLECTION — Vision

When I look at my own life, what do I see from inside my cockpit and equally important, from the outside looking in?

How fast am I flying through life?

What does right-side up look like for me?

Do I even know which end is up, and if not, does it matter to me, I mean really matter?

# Jesus College Postscript

Thank you and God bless you for venturing further up, further in the Kingdom Among Us. We trust you have had a fresh hearing of Jesus. May your quietly transforming, conversational friendship with God immersed in the Trinitarian community be pervaded with joy, relaxed with shalom, and filled with agape, as you become the kind of apprentice of Jesus who willfully seeks the good of God, others and yourself.

For more resources to follow Jesus with Dallas Willard's wise, warm, winsome teaching:

Dallas Willard Ministries

Jesus College

HarperCollins

The Study Guide work was prepared by Doug Webster of Jesus College. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas on how we might better help you strengthen your conversational apprenticeship with Jesus in the With-God life..

info@JesusCollege.com



 $A \, good \, school$ 

Prepared by <u>Doug Webster</u>