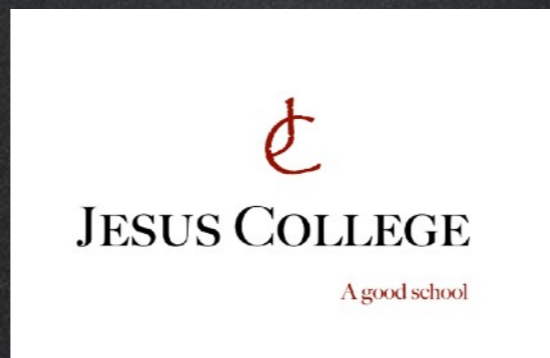


WELCOME to a 15 week course
THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM
by Dallas Willard
presented by



Dallas prays at the beginning of “Parabolic” teaching #4,

“Gracious Lord, we ask you to open our eyes now, and our hearts, and give us entrance into the truths of this parable which would sustain and guide us as we seek and live in your Kingdom. We are mindful of your words, ‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.’ Give us by your grace, the understanding that we might seek this Kingdom according to knowledge. For we pray it in your precious name, and for your sake. Amen.”

“The Great Supper: One’s Kingdomly Birthright for a Mess of Pottage”

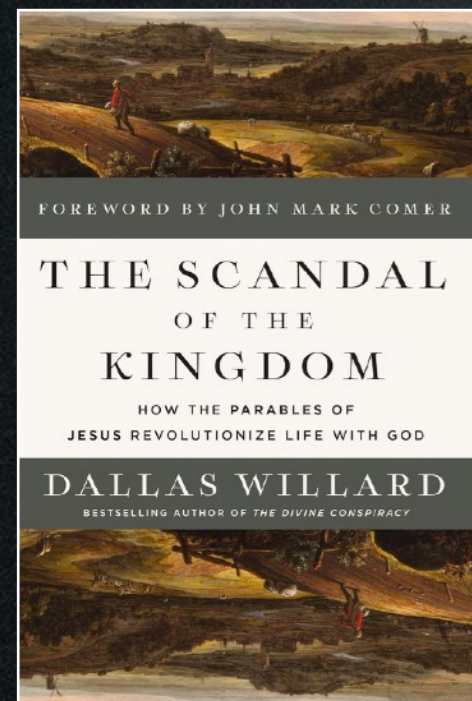
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Review of Session 4

The Word of the Kingdom works all by itself revealing with power the substance to heal life.

Our role is to cast the seed of the Kingdom, and trust with abandonment, the power of grace with patient confidence like Jesus as the seed of Abraham implanted with God.





THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM

Session 5 - "The Greatest Opportunity"

Chapter 5 (p. 70-86)

I - Parties & More Parties — Luke 14:8-15

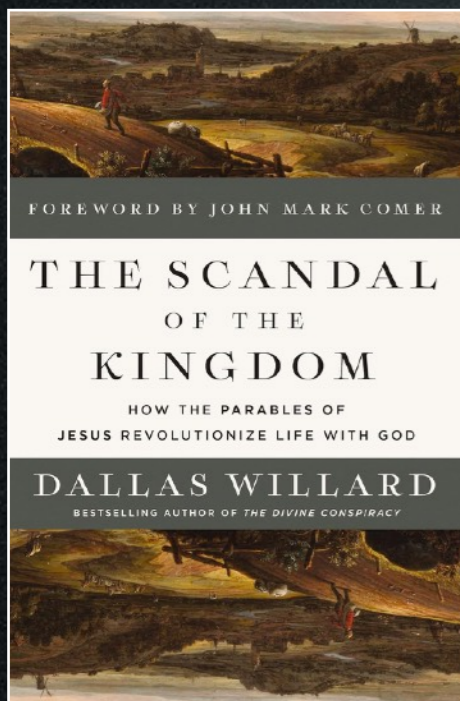
II - Excuses for Missing God's Party — 14:16-24

III - The Call to Apprenticeship of Jesus — 14:25-33

Why Parables?

Jesus designed His parables to circumvent the resistance of our hard hearts, so the truth could go down more easily. He inserted truth in each parable, which would work like a seed in the ground that has a life of its own. The truth—like the seed—is able to initiate growth, organize, and give form to the life until it matures into the fruit of the Kingdom of God. (70-71)



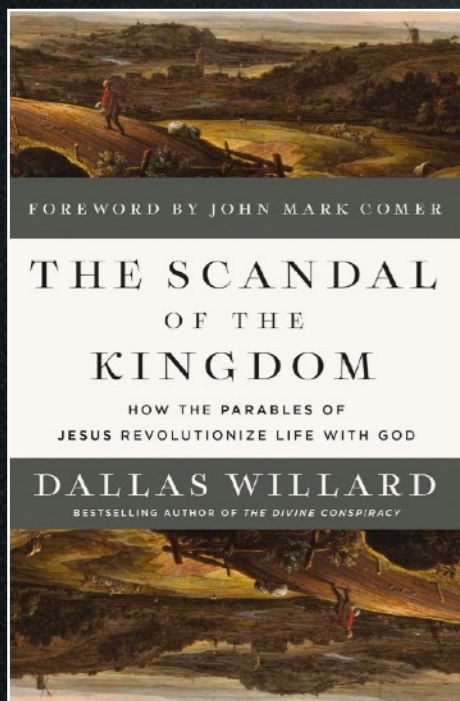


Session 5 - “The Greatest Opportunity” ...or Not!

Chapter 5 — How people pass by their true blessings, missing the greatest thing that could possibly happen to them. They miss with matters most for the sake of the small, trivial, but often good things.

The Feast awaits us!
Don't miss the invitation.

You're invited from the Least through the Yeast to the Feast.



Session 5 - "The Greatest Opportunity"

I - Parties & More Parties

Luke 14:8-15

"Whenever you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor." v. 8

The Guest List - Who is invited?

The Attention - Jockeying for position?

"Friend, move up to a better place." v. 10

The Preoccupation - Something better to do?



Who is Invited?

Be mindful of your desire to be honored.

“Whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 14:11

Everything depends on what is in our hearts.

In the Kingdom of God – The Great Inversion

The First...Last and the Last...First

“We need to remember this principle concerning the work of the Kingdom of God.”*

(72-73)

[* - This is one of the secrets of the Kingdom of God!]

In the Kingdom of God — The Great Inversion for the Sake of the Needy

The Discipline of Secrecy is very helpful here!

“Invite those who can not repay you...”

Because you live in the Kingdom of God,
you will be taken care of. (73) [Matthew 6:33]

Break free from the “quid-pro-quo” (74)

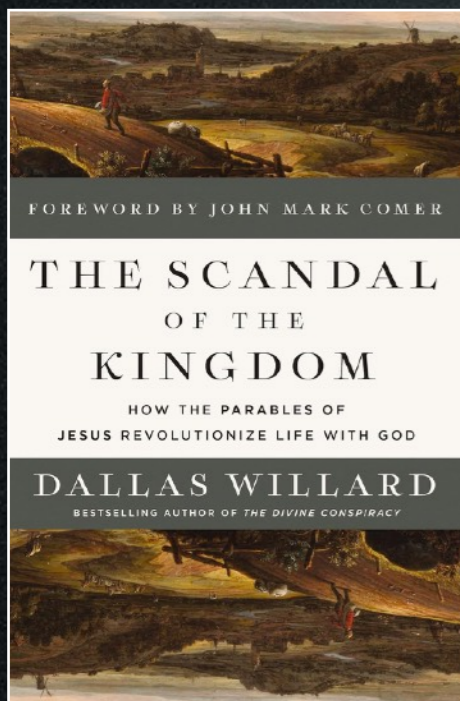
Not “*Do unto others so they will have to do unto you.*”

Those in real need, try to help them.

The LCBP community - Lame, Cripple, Blind, Poor

“Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the
kingdom of God.” Luke 14:15 (74-75)





Session 5 - “The Greatest Opportunity” ...or Not!

II. Excuses for Missing God’s Party Luke 14:16-24

“A certain man gave a great supper...

The Kingdom message went first to the Jews.
They found something else to do.

- Property • Possessions • People •

The basic question:

Do we love God and the Kingdom of God?

Day-to-day interaction with God we see in Jesus.

Maybe we haven’t been taught enough about life in the Kingdom of God to answer.

Or, we love something else more?

(78)

The Trivial vs. the One thing

If we don't have a heartfelt love for God and God's Kingdom, many trivial things can prevent us from entering the present reality of the Kingdom of God with a free and enthusiastic heart. (78)

Jesus knew what it was like to live happily in the Kingdom of God. He had a center there and He attended to that center.



This parable says — it's the small but good things that defeat us. (79)

Jesus knocking at the door. Am I Martha? Mary?

“Only if we learn to love the kingdom of God that we can find the time.”

Dallas, “Parabolic” teaching, Session 4 @ 28:45

All for Stew

“Look, I am about to die. What good is my birthright?”

Genesis 25:32

Esau was the kind of person who became obsessed with what he wanted in the moment, so he was unable to stand before a little hunger. Our inability to stand before our momentary pangs, pains, and problems can ultimately cause us even greater suffering.

He traded it for stew.

There is a finality in our choices. We can become worshippers of something as minor as soup.

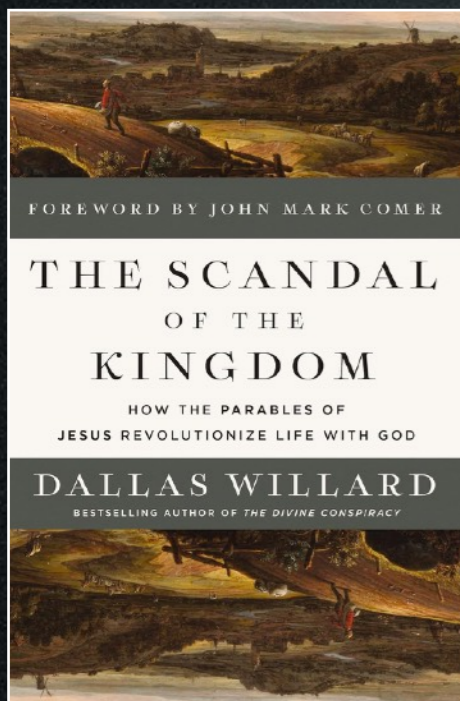
We've spent a lifetime serving our appetites.

What is my stew?

What is my piece of ground?

What are my oxen that I just bought?

What is my wife that I just married?



Session 5 - “The Greatest Opportunity” ...or Not!

III - The Call to Apprenticeship of the Master Jesus

Hate your family or you can not be my disciple. Luke 14:25-33

Yes, I’ll take the invitation!

They give themselves to the Kingdom. They seek it first, last, and always; it is their whole life.

And that is the attitude that places a person in the position to become a disciple of Jesus.

It’s not that Jesus won’t let us, we will be unable to follow Him. “Hate his own life”— an attitude of surrendeder to be a disciple and enter the life of the Kingdom. (81-82)

• Property • Possessions • People •

...or Not!

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells everything that he has, and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it.”

Mark 13:44-46





Why Am I a Disciple?

“A treasure hidden in a field...a pearl of great price”

Matthew 13:44-46

Once we understand who Jesus is, and what knowing him means for our lives, we realize that discipleship to Jesus is the greatest opportunity we will ever have in life. We happily give up the little good things in our lives in order to gain possession of the priceless treasure of the Kingdom of God. It is no sacrifice at all. People who profess the name of Christ often do not comprehend the greatness of the invitation to life in the kingdom of God.

The unsearchable riches of Christ. Ephesians 3:8

Why Am I a Disciple? (continued)

“A treasure hidden in a field...a pearl of great price”

Matthew 13:44-46

If we present Christ correctly, the effect will be to ravish people – to delight, even to overwhelm them, with a reality of the Kingdom. They will think they have nothing better to do! That's how you make a disciple.

Our problem is that we don't truly see the greatness of Christ.

The unsearchable riches of Christ. Ephesians 3:8



(83)

“Why are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?”

“Who else did you have in mind?”



Choosing to be a Disciple

Q1 – Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Q2 – Do you even want to be a disciple?

Q3 – Do you consciously chose not to be a disciple?

To be Jesus' disciple means learning from Him
how to lead my life if He were I.

It really is the greatest opportunity life offers! (84)

We are learning to...

...live as Jesus taught us to live.

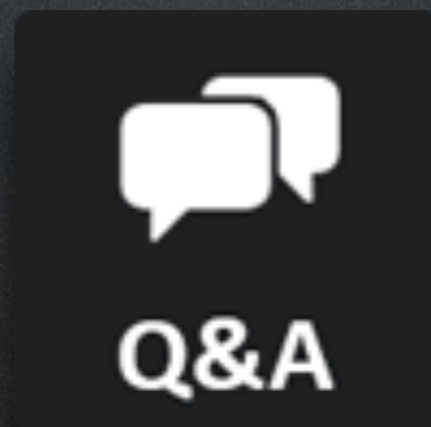
...handle ordinary, daily events in cooperation with God.

...act in God's power.

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



A person's legs in sandals walking on a path. The word "Follow" is carved into the stone path, and a cross is visible above it.

Follow

Review of Session 5

Discipleship allows us to live lives full of love, joy, hope, peace, and confidence in God.

The feast awaits us if we've said,

"Yes, I will be a disciple of Jesus Christ on His terms!"

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *Luke 14:15-24*

Application

VISION - How do I see a Christian compared to a disciple of Jesus?

INTENTION - Am I selling all I have—sold out—to the Kingdom of God?

MEANS - What party will I host to ravish guests not my status or pleasure?



† Cross Fit

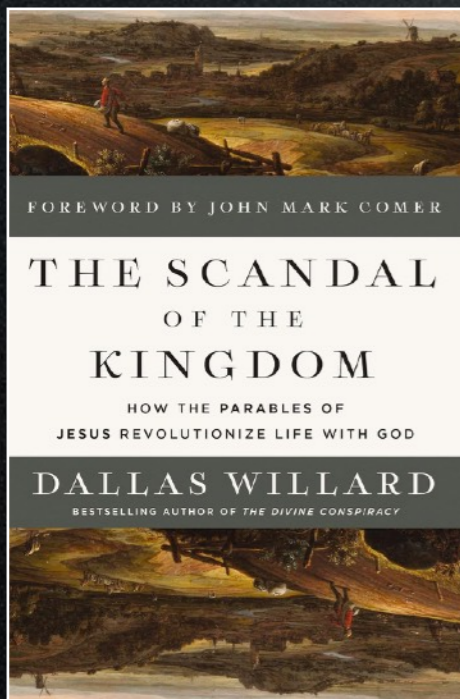


**Two Dallas Teachings (audio + video)
to complement Session 4**

1.) "The Parabolic Teaching About Christ's Kingdom by
Christ Himself" (audio)

#4: The Great Supper: Kingdom Birthright for
a Mess of Pottage [41:35]

2 2.) "Pecking Order" (71-72)
"Human Side of Holiness" #2 [11:10-15:26]



Next Week — Session 6

“Growing Together
in the Kingdom”

Read Ch. 6 (87-105)

and

Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50

Dallas prays at the end of teaching #4

“Oh, Lord, we are amazed at ourselves; how we can mess around with pottage when the feast is waiting. Teach us, dear Lord, the sweetness of your Kingdom and how that every sacrifice which might look like a sacrifice is no sacrifice at all when it is compared to the glory and the power of living fully and freely in your Kingdom.

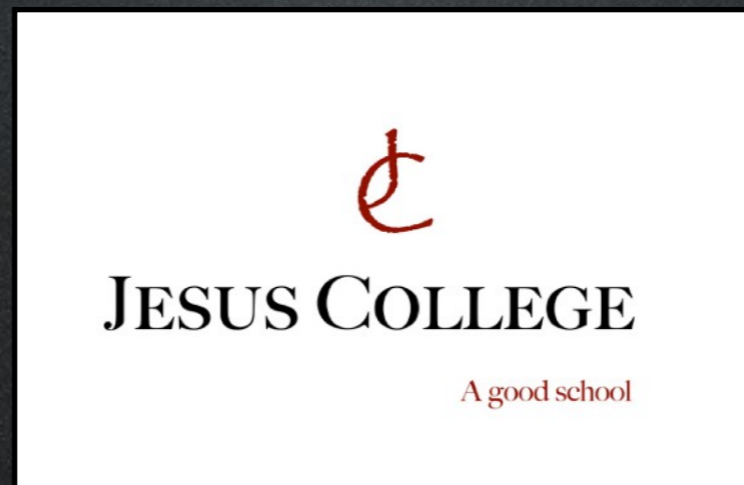
In Jesus’s name we pray it. Amen.”

“The Great Supper: One’s Kingdomly Birthright for a Mess of Pottage”

[time code 41:00]

Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”



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