



WELCOME to a 9 session course
BEYOND BELIEF

by Dallas Willard

with the Jesus College student body of Christ

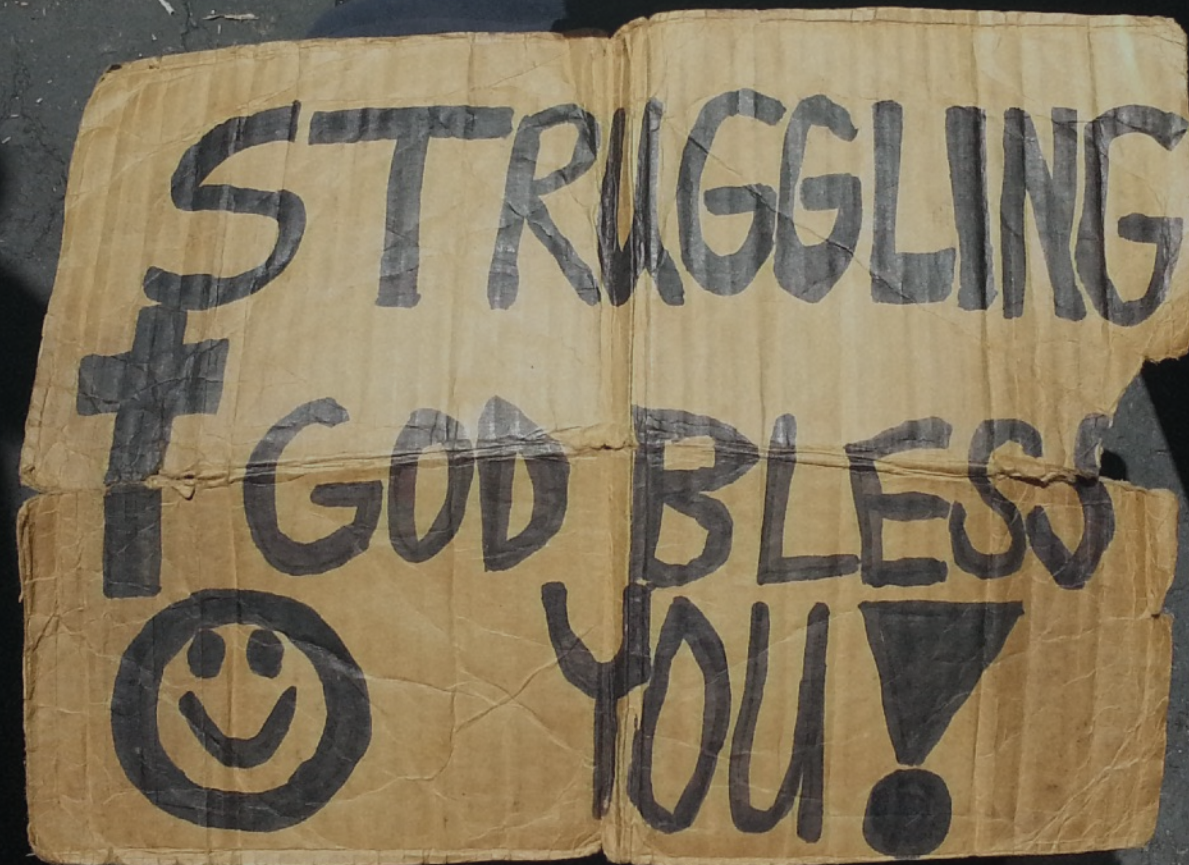


JESUS COLLEGE

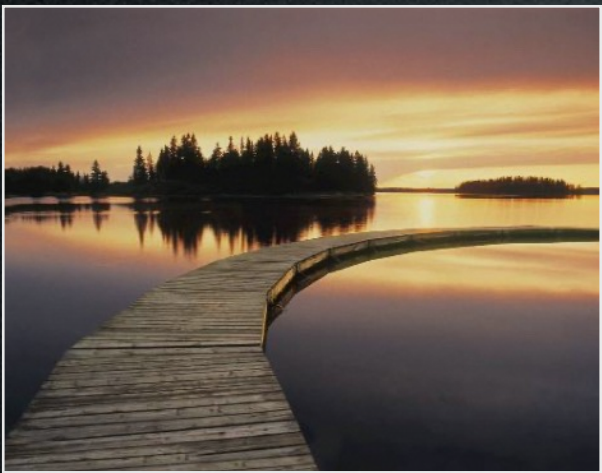
A good school

Summary of Session 5

Anyone who lives in the Kingdom of God is blessed no matter where they are in life.



As a disciple, I am learning to walk in the Kingdom and see people “blessed” as Jesus sees them.



BEYOND BELIEF

Session 6 - Who is Truly A Good Person?
Video 7 [40:10] (Dallas 3C)

I - Changing Their Worldview - *“La Revolución”*

II - External Actions of the Religious

III - A Good Heart

“The Rightness of a Kingdom Heart”
The Divine Conspiracy, chapter 5

In memory of Dallas Willard

September 4, 1935 - May 8, 2013

Beloved Professor of Philosophy (1965-2012)

"You cannot 'opt out' of having a worldview.

You can only try to have one that most accords with reality,
including the whole realm of facts concerning what is genuinely good.

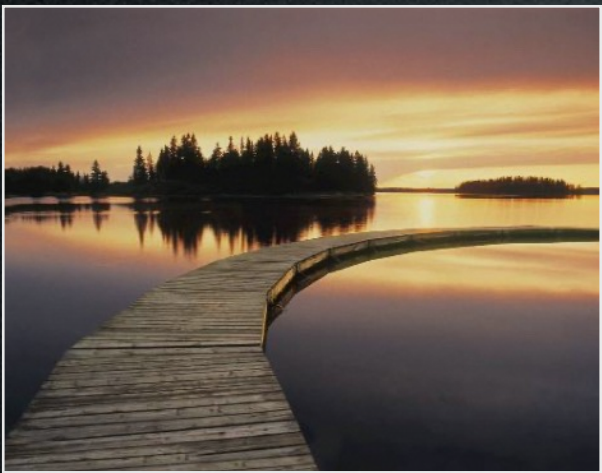
The four questions any worldview must answer are:

What is reality?

Who is well-off?

Who is truly a good person?

How does one become a truly good person?



Session 6

Who is Truly a Good Person?

I. Changing Their Worldview

“We feel our sense of righteousness threatened.

We tie in our righteousness to being able to decide who’s in, who’s out, who’s up, who’s down.” Dallas, 3C, Intro (video 7)

“Do no think that I have come to destroy the Law and the Prophets...” Matthew 5:20

They had been taught the poor are cursed and the rich are blessed. Then along comes Jesus,

“Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.”

He was abolishing the order of life as they knew it.

“La Revolución”

The Good Law

“Do not think...” Matthew 5:20

{Repentance — “to think about what you think about”}

Re-understand what the law and the prophets are. They tell us what is good and right. The Ten Commandments — God’s best advice on how to lead a decent existence.

Jesus said, “Do this law and you will live.” Luke 10:28

Redemption has to be supplied because people cannot and do not live in them.

[3C, video 7 @ 2:45]



Session 6

Who is Truly a Good Person?

II. External Actions of the Religious

The Problem - How do we live the law?

How do you get to be the kind of person that the law is, as the Prophet says, written on your heart?

How do you get to be the kind of person who naturally does the deeds of the law? [4:35]

#3 Most Important Question: *Who is a really good person?*

“Truly, I’m telling you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 5:20

Righteousness - “DIKAIOSUNE” [Greek] “really good person.”

Goodness beyond the Scribes & the Pharisees

Into the realm beyond particular acts. The righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees was defined by external actions, usually, but sometimes internal ones. The Scribe and the Pharisee assumes that the task is to get control of actions. The vision of righteousness is - don't do anything wrong. Just control your actions, and if you can succeed and not doing anything wrong, you're home safe.



[6:28]



Session 6

Who is Truly a Good Person?

III. A Good Heart

“You’ve heard it said, but I say to you...”

Concerning Anger — Matthew 5:21-26, “Raca!” “You fool.”

“If you’re presenting your gift at the altar...and you notice a condition in your heart...leave the gift and go be reconciled.”

What Jesus is saying here is something very radical. He is uttering the prophetic statement that you never allow ritual matters to interfere with moral matters.

[12:37]

The Rightness of a Kingdom Heart

We're moving towards a kind of tenderness of heart that will characterize the righteousness beyond the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees which can only exist because we are living in union with the Kingdom of God.

This is Jesus's deepest teaching on morality.



[13:30]

On the way to court, work it out.

You're walking in the Kingdom, and walking in the Kingdom has all sorts of possibilities of resolution which leave open constructive developments of loving relationships between people who are going to court on a legal manner. [15:25]

[18:01] Don't you see how it would be important to be a disciple of Jesus to learn how to do this? Imagine what it would be like to live a life free of anger and contempt, of attacking other people, and trying to squeeze justice out of them.

Jesus invites us to come into the Kingdom of God and live there with him. It's not about legalism. It's about having a certain kind of heart as a certain kind of person.



Not Living in the Kingdom...or Kingdom Living

Not living the Kingdom of God...

"How can I let myself be defrauded? I'm running my life.

I have to master the situation."

They are in charge of their life.

They have defined blessedness.

They are in charge of blessedness.

They have to make it work.

Living in the Kingdom of God...

Simply lay it down. If there is a time we must stand for what is right, we do so, but never in hostility and anger, never wishing to see harm done. We do so in a spirit of giving because we know we stand in the hand of God.

That's what this teaching is about.

Not legalism. It's about a certain kind of heart.

[19:00]

Living in the Presence of the Cross



The meaning of the cross in Christian experience then becomes vital and powerful, because that cross is where we stand and we accept the fact that we are sinners. And we accept the fact that our sins are paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ as he poured out his soul unto death. We accept that and we simply step off the legalistic basis that is stepping beyond the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees.

[22:18]

“La Revolución”

II. A Good Heart (continued)

“You’ve heard it said, but I say to you...”

Concerning Lust — Matthew 5:27-30, “Looking to lust.”

This is a person in love with lusting. Jesus starts with the level of the heart where evil can be stopped. The object is not to avoid sinning. You learn how to change the inside... and everything else takes care of itself.

The strategy - stay out of temptation.

[23:40]

cut it off

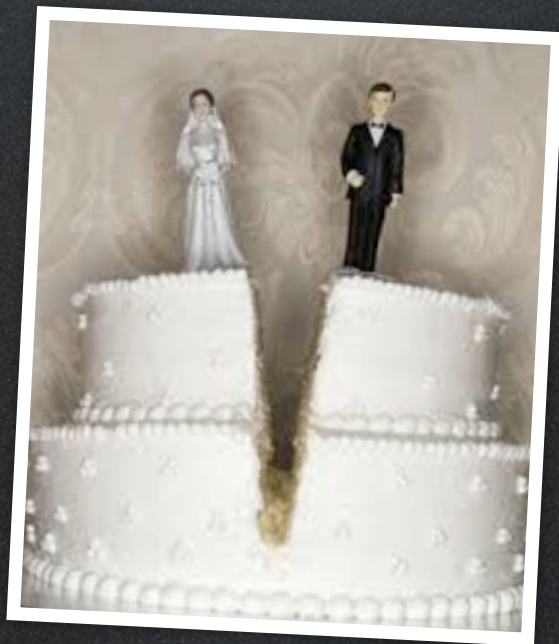


II. A Good Heart (continued)

“You’ve heard it said, but I say to you...”

Concerning Divorce — Matthew 5:31-32

How many divorces do you think we would have to deal with if we were done with anger and contempt and cultivated lusting? Almost none.



[30:45]

II. A Good Heart (continued)

“You’ve heard it said, but I say to you...”

Concerning Swearing and Oaths — *Matthew 5:33-37,*

“Just let your Yes be a Yes, and your no be a No.”

This is verbal bullying, verbal manipulation. How much advertising is actually doing what Jesus said not to?

[33:16]



II. A Good Heart (continued)

“You’ve heard it said, but I say to you...”

Concerning Retaliation — Matthew 5:38-42, “Turn the cheek.”

You're going to be ready for whatever comes and able to do whatever is right. You will love your enemies. You can remain vulnerable when you have been taken advantage of. That doesn't mean that you don't know what has happened, and that you can't base your future action on the basis of your knowledge of what has already happened. But, it does mean you will not try to become invulnerable. You will not isolate yourself. Why? Because you're living in the Kingdom of God. [36:15]

A Good Heart of the Father's Love

“Blessed are the _____ (you fill in the blank),
because theirs is the Kingdom of God.”

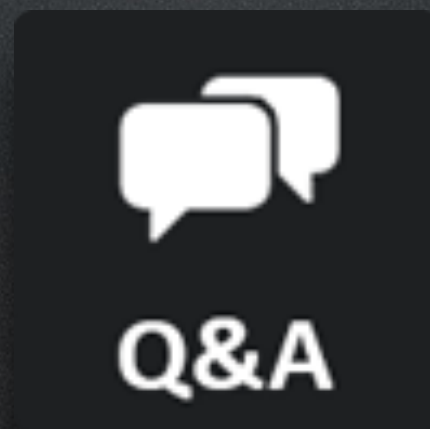
In that vision, move on to a transformed heart that is able to do what Jesus says at the end of the passage (Matthew 5:43-48) — love as your Father in heaven loved.

That's real righteousness. That's real goodness. And in it, we are living in interaction with the Kingdom of the Heavens. The scribe and the Pharisee can't get there because they are living at the level of explicit action, not at the level of the heart. You meet the Kingdom of God at the level of the heart, and there you are supplied with the wisdom, the strength, the joy that enables you actually to do the kinds of things that Jesus is talking about.

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



80:00 + 10K

Meditation: Matthew 5:21-48, “You’ve heard, but I say”

Application

VISION - Can I see myself living free of anger and contempt?

INTENTION - When did I last spout “Raca!” or “Fool” before thinking?

MEANS - Pray for 3 people with whom you have tension to see them like Jesus sees them and bless them with the blessedness of the Kingdom.



† Cross Fit

Summary of Session 6

When we walk with Jesus as His disciple in the Kingdom of God, sharing His vision for who is well off and a really good person, God transforms our hearts through awkward stages to mastery as the kind of person who loves our neighbor at home, in church, in business, in court, even our worst enemy, with the love as our Father in Heaven loves.



More Dallas teaching to complement Session 6

† *The Divine Conspiracy*

“The Rightness of the Kingdom Heart”, chapter 5, p. 129-185

† Videos (271 page [full transcript](#) of the 12 lectures)

1.) The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #4 - [Kingdom of God](#) [link]

"Master of the Moral Life: Evil, Anger" [54:10-1:06:55]

2.) The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #7

[Kingdom Goodness in the Whole Self](#) [link]

"Question #3 - Who is a really good person?" [10:25-25:25]



Next Week — Session 7

Spiritual Disciplines (part 1)

Video 8 [28:29]

Spiritual Disciplines (part 2)

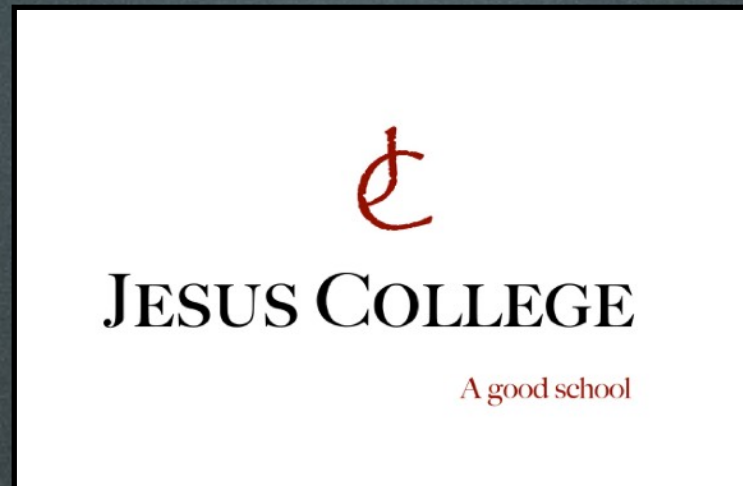
Video 9 [20:51]

“He who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man...”

May the love of God
and the riches of His
Kingdom enthrall you
as you encounter
opportunities in your
next 10,000 minutes to
live as Jesus taught
from the heart beyond
legalism.

Doug





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

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

Jesus College Mission - To Empower Apprentices of the Master Teacher Jesus as the One, great truth to live a good life found in Him.

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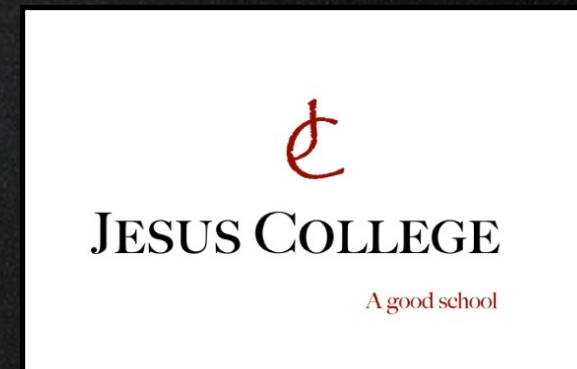
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