

[4:50 Start]

Topic: *Living the Divine Conspiracy through Jesus’ words of eternal life.*

Unless we eat his flesh and drink his blood we will not have his life in us.

We will have a deep and abiding eternal life when we literally take the substance of our life from Him.

They are being told their utter dependence upon God.

Adam & Eve in the Garden - Will we be our own god and trust ourselves or will we trust God. Jesus comes among us the incarnate God, the humble Son of God and invites us to put our trust in Him. We face the same challenge, “Can we trust him?” Can we stop thinking we can provide for ourselves.

“Lord to whom shall you go for you have the words of eternal life and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Son of God.”

I want to try to build your confidence in Jesus the Son of God.

Sermon on the Mount - most valuable piece of knowledge that ever has been committed to human beings. It is the deepest most profound treatment of what our life is meant to be.

“Those who hear my words and do them are like a wise man who built his house on a rock.”

He’s talking about our life. That thing the you and I are going through. That process of birth, growing up, finding our way, family, work, old age, what is called death can become an eternal life by becoming a part of the life of God Himself in our time.

To become Eternal means to be so caught up in what Goes doing in our time and they are an everlasting part of what God is doing in all time. The invitation is to be a part of it.

John the Baptist - *“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”*

A simple invitation for human beings to come and bring their lives into the life of God Himself.

Repent (def.) “Think about your thinking.”

The importance of ideas - those assumptions that guide our action without thinking. They are a part of the self that lies so far back we don’t think about them. We just act on them automatically.

Now you have the opportunity touring your life into the Kingdom of God. Jesus came preaching exactly the same words.

The invitation to take our life and bring it into the life of God. That message remains constant all through the scriptures. We read over and over about the availability of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 11:11-12 - *"He who is least in the Kingdom of the Heavens is greater than John the Baptist. From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom suffers violence and the violent take it by force."*

They rushed into His presence.

Matthew 8

* Leper. That's a violent man taking the Kingdom of Heaven by force. *"If you would, you can make me clean."*

* Woman bleeding

* Roman Centurion

Acts 1 - Jesus *"speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God."*

Acts 9 - *"Phillip preaching the good news about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ."* The message of Jesus is the availability of the Kingdom of God. The message of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus go together.

Acts 28:30 - *"Paul preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus."*

If you are going to understand Jesus and His message, you have to understand that Jesus came into the world then and now and stands flat footed on a level with everyone else who tells us how to live. He completes at that level.

The human being has the problem how to live.

"Too soon old, too late smart."

We can't solve that problem satisfactorily at a human level. We've had a while at that.

Jesus had compassion for the people as "sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus comes in his own day and in his day and in our day,

'Come, take my yoke, learn from me, I am meek and lowly of heart.'

Ever hear of a University professor described as "meek and lowly of heart"?

Read the statement with the inference and confidence with at least the confidence you read "Dear Gabby".

Most Christians respond to the Sermon on the Mount?

“What are we going to do with this?”

“Bless those who curse me”. We can’t even bless those who bug us.

He has put in place a process which is going to eventuate in human beings who understand and live in the truth that He is and the truth that He gives.

The divine conspiracy is the form that the Kingdom of God takes in human history. It is the mystery of the Kingdom of God. God in His wisdom has decided to not run over us. What He wants will be won by love.

* Some say Jesus will show up with an atomic cattle prod and everyone will straighten out.

He could have done that right after Adam & Eve ate the apple. If He wanted everyone to do what is right, He could have arranged for that immediately. That’s not his way. His way is to approach us gently with love and to leave us room to seek and to find Him.

The divine conspiracy is the presence of the Kingdom of God among human beings just like you and me down through history in a way the way He knows best to bring to completion His purposes for human life.

Nietzsche & Atheism - The Wil to Power [22:35]

Satan tempted Jesus with that. *“I will give you all power over all the nations.”* He led Him through the temptations that human beings constantly fall for. He said no because He knew power will not solve the problem, then and now. It does not work in government, in family. You try to use power.

* The man who ruled his house with an iron lung.

What is the alternative? Step back into the Kingdom of God

Three Basic Questions [24:00]

1.) What is real?

We interact with reality as it is in everything.

* Chair you sit in; Your retirement;

2.) Who is well off? Who’s got it made? Happiness?

We are often stunned at what people think will make them happy.

* Write it on your tombstone - *“She had great teeth.”*

3.) Who is a truly good person?

We want to be good. We are prepared to do what is wrong for a good reasons but we'd really like to be good. No one does what is wrong without a good reason.

Jesus comes into life as the Master Teacher and answers the questions [26:30]

1.) What is real? God is real. The Kingdom of God is real.

This teaching doesn't begin with Jesus. It is designed to pull us away from this world of matter where we can manipulate, steer and use our power. It's fortunate we don't have more power than we do. We are big on empowerment and empowerment is good.

Jesus gives us guidance on what is real. God is real - the world of the spirit is fundamental reality. God is spirit and God is real. Then He turns to us and says, *"You are spirit, too."* We see ourselves as a physical entity struggling in a social setting rather than seeing ourselves as citizens of God's world.

Philippians - *"Our citizenship is in heaven from which also Christ will come."*

Colossians - *"You are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God."*

That's a different world view that tells us where to live not just try to avoid death as long as we can and go out with a squeak. God made us to be uncasing spiritual beings with an eternal destiny in His world. When we see God as real suddenly all the other teachings of Jesus begin to pull together.

2.) Who is well off? [29:40]

"Woe be unto you that are rich."

"Blessed are the poor...poor in spirit."

That's not a teaching of what you should do to blessed, it is a teaching about who is blessed in the Kingdom of the Heavens. Those not blessable can be blessed.

* Peugeot Ad - *Pursue happiness in a car that can catch it*

Who is well off? The person that is alive in the Kingdom of God.

Are they poor? Are they rich? It doesn't matter. If they are living in reality of the Kingdom of God. It's good to be who they are. That's the teaching of the Beatitudes - *"It's ok for them to be who they are."* In His eternal kingdom, they have a place of eternal dignity and joy and fulfillment as spiritual beings. God is not only a Creator, He creates creators. That's what you and I are to be in His world - creators of what's good, beautiful and right. Jesus comes into the world and says, *"It's all open to you."*

3.) Who is a really good person? [33:15]
A person who's heart is filled with love - the hidden ethic.

The dear old word love that stands at the center of human problem and human solution turns out to be at the heart of the Universe. The heart of the Universe is a person, a community of persons - the Trinity.

"God is in Himself a sweet society."

Love is the bottom line, the final word.

Mark 12:29 - Love God and love your neighbor.

I John 4 - God is love

Colossians 3:14 - Put on love & let the peace of God rule in your hearts in one body in which you are called.

It's possessed the person. They are not full of hostility at the body level. They have been possessed by love. They love God. What does that look like? Living without fear.

"Perfect love casts out fear."

"Be perfect as you Heavenly Father is perfect."

That's something for you and me. When we enter into that, fear goes out, anger goes out. You show me a person who is angry, I'll show you a person who is scared. Get rid of the fear, the anger goes out.

Divisions that set human beings against one another - race, religion, culture, sex - go out of human life as love comes in. When I meet people, I see them with love, without fear, because I know I am secure in God's kingdom.

The Kingdom of God (def.) - *"The range of God's effective will."*

He has provided a place for people to know otherwise.

When we come to know the Father and live in the Son, we pray,

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

As I pray that, I invite the Kingdom into all of my life aspects.

* Airplane drops and my body goes "Uuuhhh" It hasn't got it yet.

Your embodied self has to be re-trained for us to live in the divine conspiracy.

Understand the simple biblical structure - We are invited through faith in Jesus Christ to live in the Kingdom of God. That faith means we know Jesus was right about everything, not just about liberation and forgiveness of sins, He was right about everything.

"Not swearing" to impress people we are really serious.

"Living The Divine Conspiracy"
Dallas Willard @ Renovare, 1999 [1:01:16]

"Let your yes be yes, and no be no." You can only do that if your trusting God to care for you. We call it our "song & dance". Our "song & dance" is our attempts to manage people to get them to do what we want them to do. If we have stepped into the Kingdom of God, we have to retrain ourselves and retrain others because they are use to our song & dance.

* Anger - How will I communicate to people if I am not angry. They are use me being angry. If I speak in sweet tones, they won't respond.

We have to retrain ourselves to come to the place where we can sweetly stand in the good things Christ taught us where we don't need anger, lust, steam roll people with our words, secure ourselves with money or reputation. We can simply seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and see how God adds everything else to that.

We approach the Sermon, with the attitude, *"Lord, please show me what my life will be like in your hand if it was like what you describe."*

Can you say from your heart, *"Yes, I really want that."*

It means admitting I don't know how to do it. I have to be taught.

A vision of accountability, support and love in a process of transformation.

Hold onto power and reputation is given up. A life where there is no more pretending, pushing.

Can you identify with that vision? Can you imagine you can have more power if you are not angry than if you are?

"The wrath of man does not work the righteousness of God." James

We come to Jesus and say, *"Lord, be our Teacher. Lead us into the divine conspiracy. Make our whole lives a part of it. Let the world experience through me the power of your kingdom. Lord, make me an instrument of our peace."*

Our challenge to the world as apprentices of Jesus and His Kingdom is to say, *"Show us a better way."*

* Students ask me, *"Why are you a disciple of Jesus?"*

My response is always the same, *"Who else did you have mind?"*

Their challenge to us - *"Show us in practice that life is truly eternal."*

That's what the world is waiting for. It has had glimpses of it.

Jesus electrified a small group of people who went across the earth and brought to life multitudes of people who was the intellectuals for hundreds of years converted in mass.

"This is what we have been trying to solve are solved by Jesus Christ."
Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, Epicureans tried to solve it.
They saw the reality of the eternal life and said, *"We will take it."*

The guide is the Sermon on the Mount taught in a way of grace and love not condemnation, not law. Taught to people as they fellowship with Christ and His people they learn this is the easy way to live. Sermon on the Mount is easy. What is hard is what we've got.

* Romanian uprising - Pastor Peter led them in the Lord's Prayer [49:00]
Communism system is another version of Nietzsche - trying to use power to make people right.
200,000 bowed in the square and prayed it.

What would have to happen if that was to happen in Houston?

Where you live - what will it take in your home to embrace Jesus and His words? That's the question we face.

"Repent, for the Kingdom of the Heavens is at hand."

~ ~ ~ **End of Teaching @ 51:30** ~ ~ ~

Q & A

Q - 52:40 - Kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will. Human beings have a kingdom as well. Can you expound?

A - Reach into your neighbor's pocket and take their change out and we will experience a kingdom. Every person has an area in which they alone have say. If you take that away from a person, you destroy them. God respects that. That's why God allows us to have a kingdom.

What God does is He invites us take our Kingdom into His Kingdom and to share in one another's kingdoms. That's why love God and love your neighbor.

The fallacy of Nietzsche, Communism is that you can enforce this by force. As we are faithful in our little kingdom, He wants that to expand. Everyone has a kingdom and everyone is invited to bring their kingdom into God's Kingdom to experience the increase from the union.

Q - 55:30 - Illustration in *The Divine Conspiracy* - "electricity"

A - 55:50 - *"The Kingdom of God is not eat and drink but righteousness, joy and peace and the Holy Spirit."* That's where the electricity comes in. What we are talking about can not be done in human energy.

“Living The Divine Conspiracy”
Dallas Willard @ Renovare, 1999 [1:01:16]

* Willard family got electricity for the first time in his last year of High School. A way of life was possible because of the power that was available. A lot of people didn't accept it.

* “There was a man in my area who did not want his kids to go to school because he thought they would become smarter than he was. After hearing that, you'd think there was a good chance.”

Electricity was right there, cost almost nothing and it would change their life, but they did not want it.

The Kingdom of the Heavens is at hand. To know it, you simply have to step into the commandments of Jesus. You begin to know the Kingdom of God when you undertake to do things you are sure will not work and they do.

~ ~ ~ Q & A End at 58:57 ~ ~ ~

Song led by Worship Leader [RT = 2:15]

~ ~ ~ Video ends @ 1:01:16 ~ ~ ~