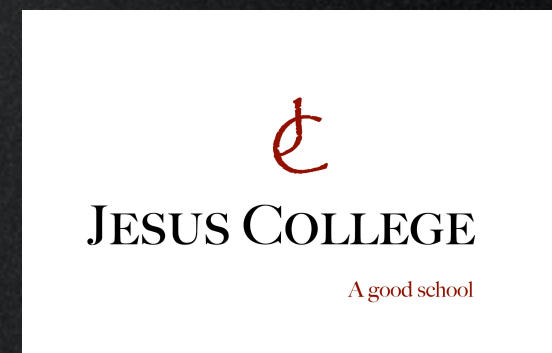


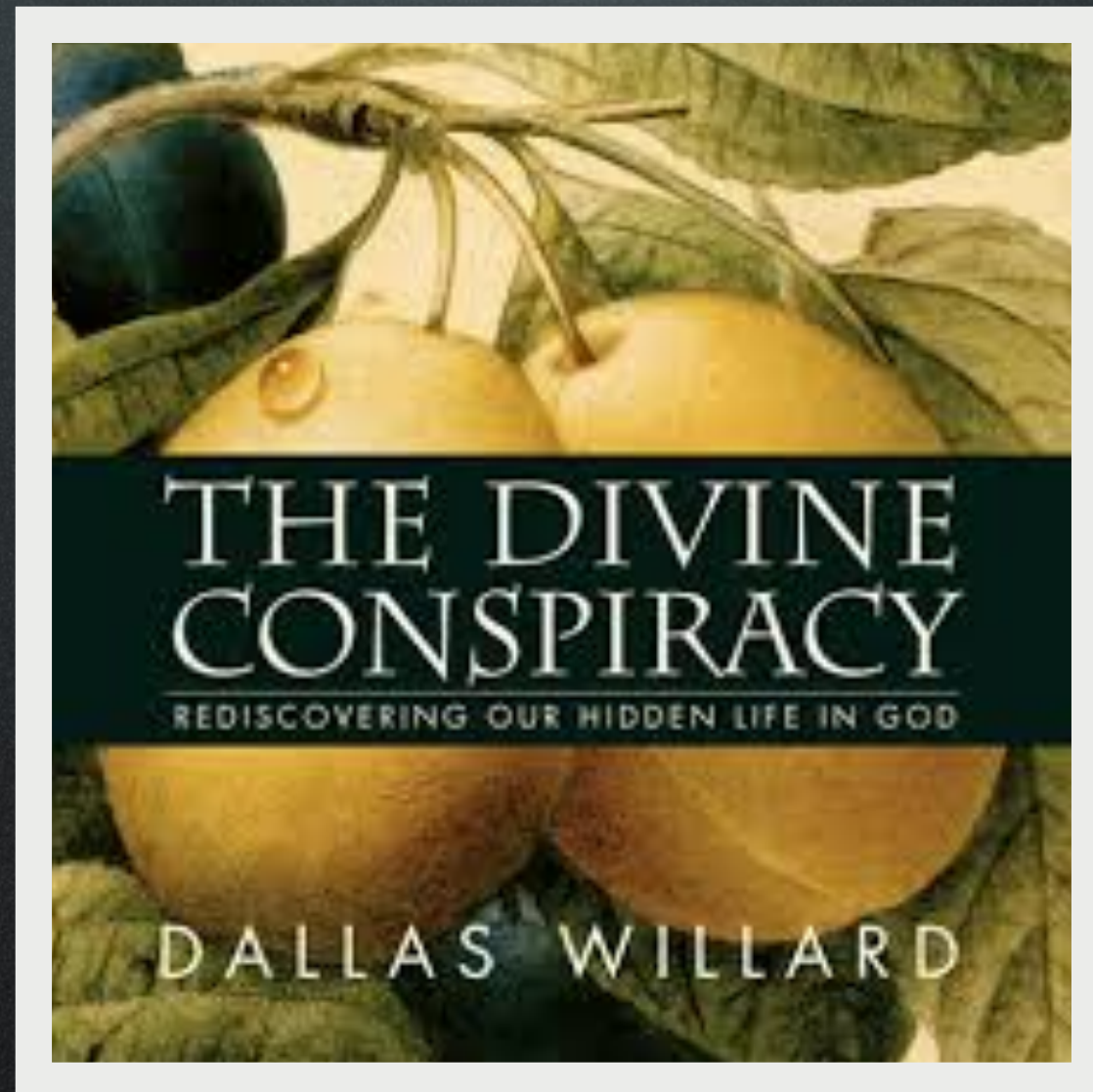
WELCOME to our weekly Course brought to you by
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THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 7 - “The Community of Prayerful Love”

Session 19 - “No Condemnation”



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY
REVIEW Session 18 - “The Bondage of Wealth”

Those who understand Jesus and His Father know that provision has been made for them. Their confidence has been confirmed by their experience. Though they work, they do not worry about things “on Earth.” They are always seeking the Kingdom. That is, they “place top priority on identifying and involving themselves in what God is doing and the kind of righteousness [dikaiosune] he has. All else needed is provided.” (Matthew 6:33). They soon enough have a track record to prove it.

Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy, p. 212

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

REVIEW

Jesus looks outward to the cosmos and the sweep of human history before and after. He tells us we have no need to be anxious, for there is a divine life, the true home of the soul, that we can enter simply by placing our confidence in Him; becoming his friend, and conspiring with Him to subvert evil with good. He also shows us how we can be renewed in the depths of our soul, stepping 'beyond the goodness of the scribes & Pharisees' to become the kind of persons who are genuinely at home in God's world. (215)

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 7 - “The Community of Prayerful Love”

Session 19 - “No Condemnation”

In the first 12 verses of Matthew 7, [Jesus] deals with the deadly way in which we try to “manage” or control those closest to us by blaming and condemning them and by forcing upon them our “wonderful solutions” for their problems. This too is a sure way of stepping outside the Torah, the Logos, the Kingdom Among Us and undertaking to manage our world on our own. Disaster awaits... (216)

No Condemnation

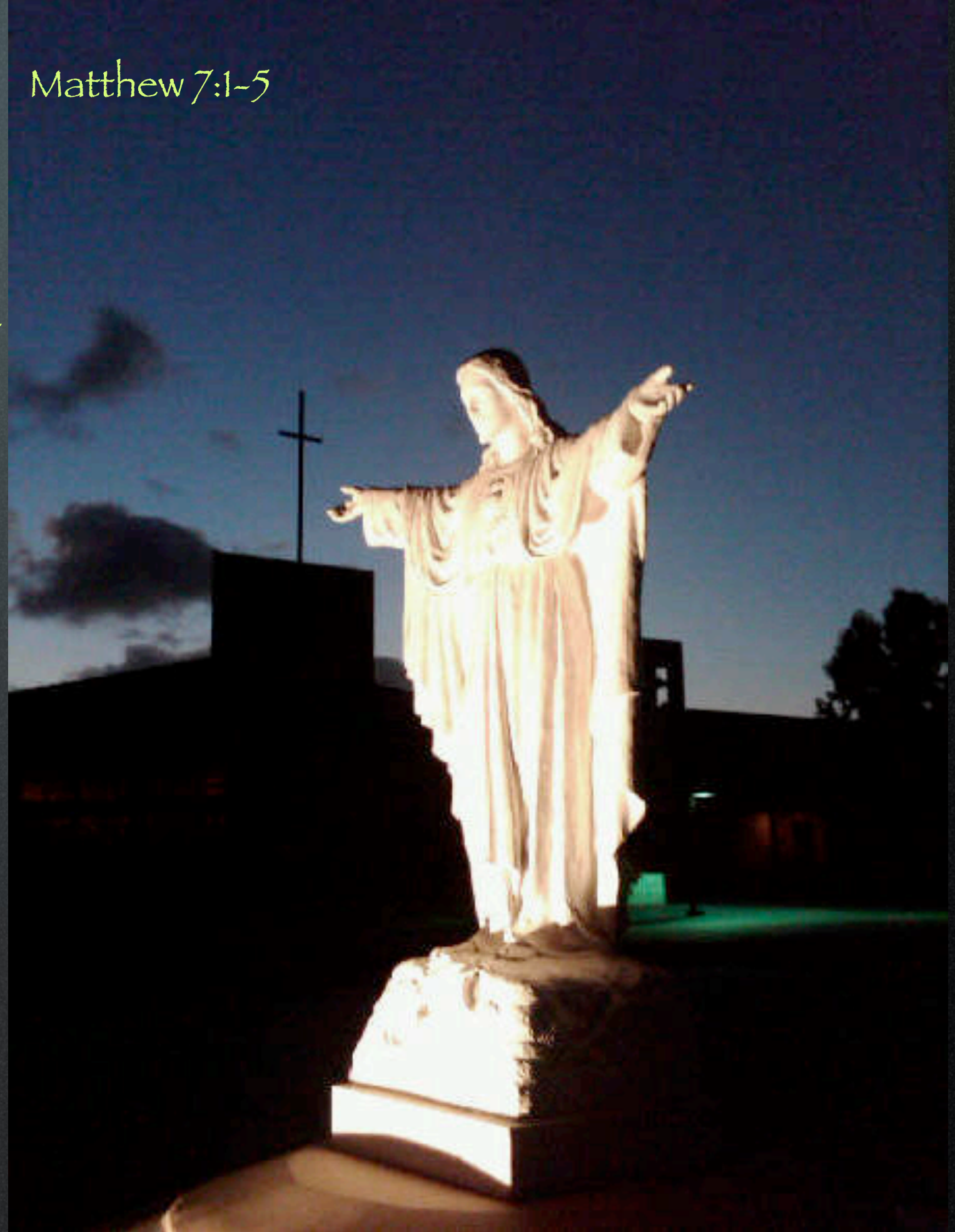
Matthew 7:1-5



1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:1-5



Once Again, the Centrality of the Order

Matthew 7:1-12 ~ “The kingdom attitude (agape love) toward those closest to us.”

“Therefore” in v. 12 refers to 1-11, “In His Kingdom life, we extend respect to others that we would naturally hope others would extend to us.”

Agape Love is...

- 1.) Not condemning or blaming others (Mt. 7:1-5)
- 2.) Not forcing “wonderful things” upon them (v. 6)
- 3.) Asking what we want from them & God.(v. 7-11)

(217)

“Copping an Agape Attitude”

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Alert! Pay close attention here.

Pages 215 & 216 of *The Divine Conspiracy* are a clear and concise overview of Matthew 5 & 6 drawing the apprentice into Kingdom living with Jesus.

Every student devoted to simply and solely following Jesus as guided by our senior apprentice Dallas Willard will do well to make these 6 paragraphs a staple in one's studious and daily journey through the Sermon on the Mount.

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 7 - "The Community of Prayerful Love"

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"Judge Not", Jesus of Nazareth

To live in the power of the Kingdom...

...we must abandon the deeply rooted human practice of condemning and blaming.

He is telling us we should, and that we can, become the kind of person who does not condemn or blame others. As we do so, the power of God's Kingdom will be more freely available to bless and guide those around us into His ways. *[This is Kingdom Technology]*

Can we really live that way?

Condemnation is such a large part of normal human existence that we might not even be able to imagine or think what life would be like without it.

(217-218)



The Power of Condemnation

At least we need the choice of giving others a good dose of blame and condemnation when it seems appropriate, don't we? We have great confidence in the power of condemnation to "straighten others out".

What do we do when we condemn someone?

He or she is bad, to be rejected...among the discards of human life...not acceptable...sentenced to exclusion.

Can you successfully negotiate personal relations without letting people know that you disapprove of them, find them to be in the wrong?

(218)



Who Can “Correct” Others

Galatians 6:1, “Brothers, if someone really is caught in a sin, the spiritual ones among you are the ones to restore him. Do it in a lowly and non-presumptuous spirit, considering yourselves, lest you too be put to the test. Feel the weight others are feeling, and thus you will fulfill Christ’s teaching.”

- 1) Sin confirmed
- 2) ...by the Mature
- 3) ...for Restoration
- 4) ...without Contempt!



“[CS Lewis] has been far more impressed by the bad manners of parents to children than by those of children to parent.”

“[Parents are seen to treat children with] an incivility which, offered to any other young people, would simply have terminated the acquaintance.”

“Who does not prefer civility to barbarism?”



CS Lewis, *The Four Loves*, p. 42-43



Condemnation with Anger & Contempt

The decision to step aside from [condemnation], neither giving it nor receiving it, is a major turning point in one's life. Of course, more than half the battle with condemnation is won once we have given up anger and contempt.

Condemnation is such an easy way of hurting people deeply. (221)

Condemnation...a stinging attack, a shocking assault...often grows into shame. (222)





"BEYOND THE PALE"



BANISHING THEM TO THE NATION OF CONDEMN

The Power of Condemnation...

It also explains why the gospel of the Kingdom has such transforming power in human life. For that gospel opens the Kingdom to everyone, no matter the classification, and it enables us to become a different kind of person, beyond all condemnation, blame, and shame, and to know it. (222)

“Beauty in the place of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of grief, garments of praise in a place of a spirit of despair.”

Isaiah 61:3



Judge Not so that you...

Be Not Judged

“Counterattack” or “Reciprocity” (223)

“Mutual Condemnation Groups”

Eliminate Condemnation Then Help - “Log Eye”

Separate Judging and Discerning

“The Appraiser” & “The Approval Seeker”

We simply can not forsake discernment. But we must forsake the practice of condemning people.

(226-227)

When we enter the life of friendship with the Jesus who is now at work in our universe, we stand in a new reality where condemnation is simply irrelevant.

In the context of the eternal love of Christ (Romans 8), it seems only intelligent just to have done with the whole condemning game.

(227)

"Copping an Agape Attitude"



Questions or Comments!



Use “Q&A” on the bottom of your Zoom screen

Dallas Willard on Matthew 7:1-5
Fellows Institute 2007
#12 (29:40-41:00)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd4_PKVvtVY

In the next 10,000 minutes...

Q - What is my condemnation level on a scale of 1-10 (10 high). Who can I ask to rate me?

Q - What is/was the presence of condemnation in my family? Marriage? Work?

Q - What does "a practiced spirit of intelligent agape" (225) mean to me?

Q - With whom do I need to seek forgiveness and/or commit to offering non-condemning love?



Next Week — Session 20

Chapter 7 - “The Community of Prayerful Love”

“Deadly Good Things & Community Request”

Matthew 7:6-11

Hardback - pp. 228-239

Paperback - pp. 251-263

> Recorded Sessions + Slides <

Go to JesusCollege.com/DallasWillardWriting-Courses

May you abdicate your
seat in the high court of
the Nation of Condemn
and extend the
Kingdom in your next
10,000 minutes!

Doug

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THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING

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