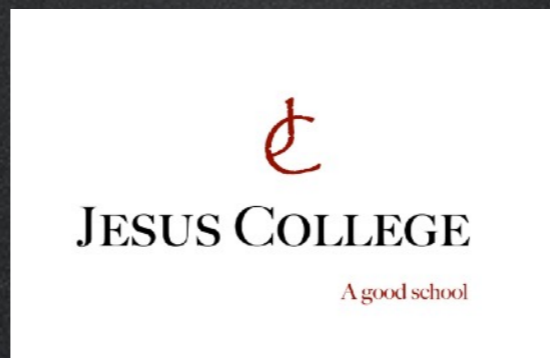
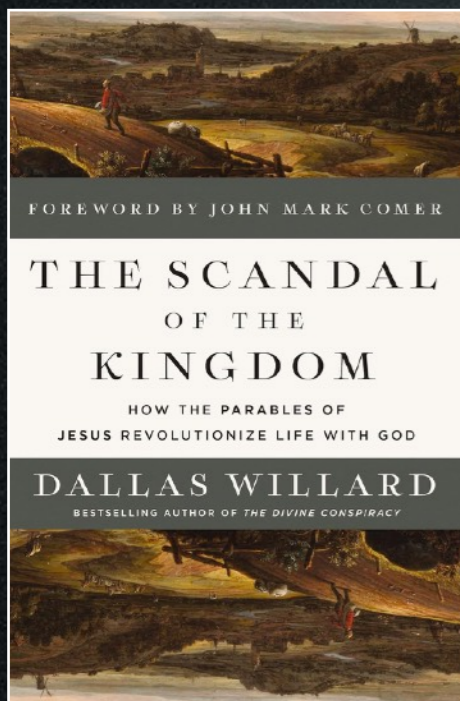


WELCOME to a 15 week course
THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM
by Dallas Willard
presented by





THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM

Session 2 - "How Jesus Taught"

Chapter 2 (p. 19-35)

I - The Genius Teacher

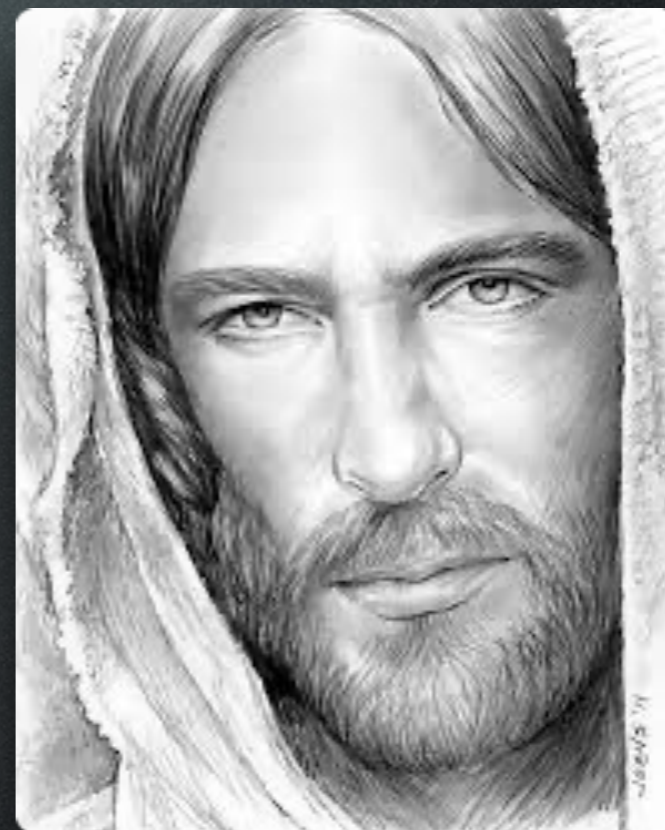
II - Teaching to Inform vs. Teaching to Transform

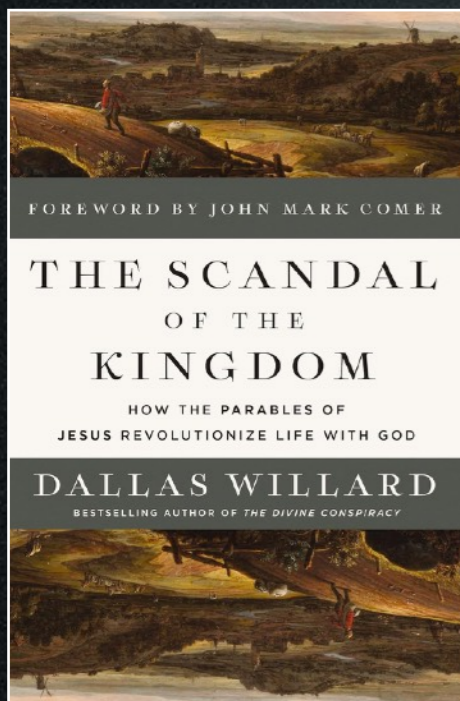
III - "Ears to Hear" — S.H.U.T. = HEAL

Review of Session 1

The gentle allure of Jesus imparts eternal life in the Kingdom of God now fully available to anyone and everyone who will turn by faith IN Christ, violently if need be, and grow, as disciples and friends of Jesus, with Kingdom resources, the faith OF Christ in us.

The parables reveal the nature of the Kingdom and how it works.





Session 2 - "How Jesus Taught"

I - Genius Teacher

Jesus was the brightest man and the most capable and creative teacher who ever lived.

Jesus' teachings went far deeper than laws. They were aimed at the heart...a whole-life condition.

You cannot understand what Jesus taught unless you understand how he taught...He shared what it's like to live under the rule of God. [God's Kingdom.]

Session 2 - "How Jesus Taught"

I - Genius Teacher (continued)

Life vs. Legalism?

Jesus' teaching about life in the Kingdom is the indispensable means for our coming to be able to live in the Kingdom day by day, moment, by moment, comfortably in the care of God and in obedience and service to him. We shut this down when we turn his teaching into legalism. If we don't understand how he taught, legalism will run rampant because we will interpret what he was saying as laws. Especially the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain.



(20)

“We have to shift the understanding of Jesus away from someone who is perhaps nice, but doesn’t really provide knowledge, to one who provides us with the most essential knowledge about the most important things in human life.

He doesn’t come to just offer us a fire insurance policy. He offers us eternal life now. And that is open to testing, to questioning, to experimentation.

To know the
put it to the



TRUTH
TEST

He is talking about,
of experience.”

Dallas Willard
“The Genius of Jesus”
Ohio State University
November 14, 2002

Who is the SMARTEST person you know offering the best ANSWERS to life's 4 most important questions?

What is REALITY?

Who is a good PERSON?



Who has the good LIFE?

How do I become GOOD?

“THE GENIUS of JESUS”



In two Ohio State University Veritas Forums — “The Genius of Jesus” & “Human Nature” — Dallas Willard boldly declares Jesus offers the best answers to life's four great questions. Willard shares key insights from his ground breaking works: *The Divine Conspiracy*, *The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge*, *Renovation of the Heart*, and *The Spirit of the Disciplines*.

(4) 30 minute sessions + optional extended Q&A

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Led by Pastor Doug Webster, JESUS COLLEGE

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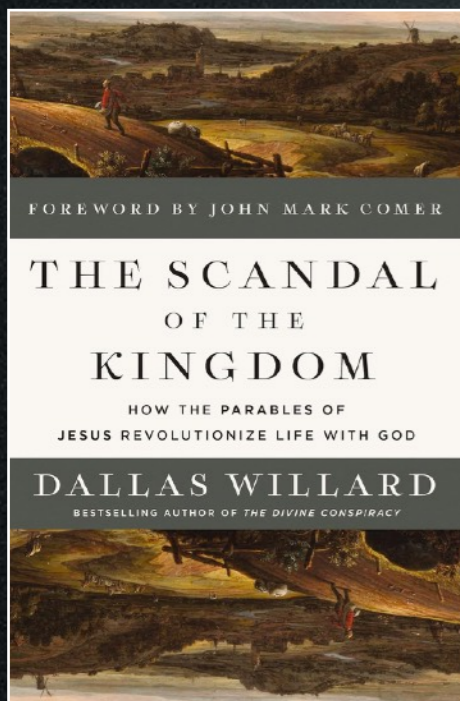
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Session 2 - "How Jesus Taught"

II - Teaching to Inform vs. Transform

The important thing for a teacher is...
to give them the ideas and turn them loose.

A primary problem is the nature of truth and how it is communicated. So Jesus constantly used careful and creative employment of the power of logical insight throughout his teaching to enable people to come to the truth about themselves, and about God from the inside of their own hearts and minds. As students of Jesus... we are allowed to grow into the truth of the Kingdom of God.

(20-21)

Session 2 - “How Jesus Taught”

II - Teaching to Inform vs. Transform (continued)

Jesus used everyday things...Everybody could understand and identify with what he was saying. Jesus’ illustrations and examples made the Kingdom of God more accessible.

“The Kingdom of God is like leaven...” Mt. 13:33

Like leaven [yeast], good teaching gets tucked away in your mind and becomes more meaningful as it expands with the passing of time. (21)



The Great Inversion

Again (like chapter 1), as seen in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus was announcing the availability of the Kingdom to everyone. Anyone who lives in the Kingdom of God is blessed.* (22)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens.” Matthew 5:3

Blessings is relativized through the Kingdom.

This is the Great Inversion! (23)

“You have heard it said, but I say...” Matt. 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43

People paused to think...

to evaluate their lives in light of the Kingdom.

* - See *The Divine Conspiracy*, Chapter 4, “The Puzzle of the Beatitudes”



The Great Inversion

Jesus' teachings are set aside because they are read as if he were giving a law. Instead, he is challenging our thinking by giving us an illustration of what a Kingdom heart might do in that situation.

So it is wise to examine Jesus' teaching and ask if he is giving a general command or offering illustration of a Kingdom principle and what it might look like. If it's an illustration, ask yourself,

“What prevailing cultural presumption is he trying to correct?”

(24)

Misunderstanding the Messiah

The people of Israel misunderstood the Messiah. They thought a God-sent Messiah would offer the best welfare programs and the mightiest arms program.

They misunderstood that the Jewish nation and people were to be a light to the world. They thought it meant they were to rule the world.

The people of Israel could not comprehend the Kingdom of God and the power of its truth, love, mercy, forgiveness, and gentleness.



The Scandalous Parables

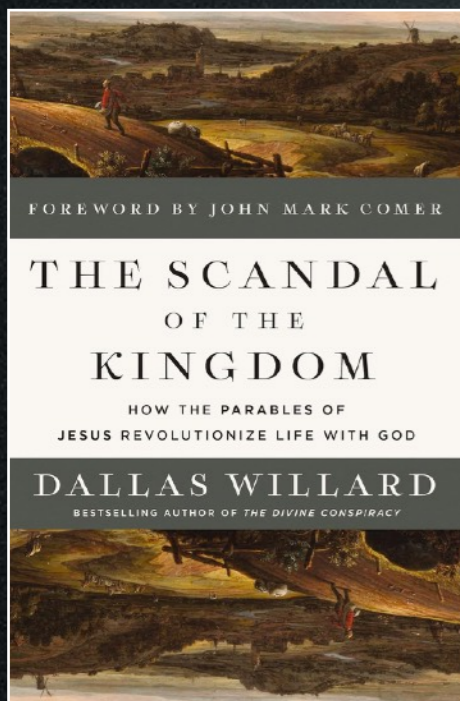
The parables redefined justice. The Kingdom was nothing like they expected.

Rebellious sons are welcomed home, rich men have trouble getting into heaven, those who worked one hour got paid as much as those who worked all day, a godly rabbi was in trouble for associating with the wrong people.

The great inversion: LF/FL = “Last will be first, first will be last.”

Revealing the remarkable generosity of the Kingdom of God.

We as His disciples can increasingly be like him, perfectly safe and perfectly strong in the Kingdom of God. (25-26)



Session 2 - "How Jesus Taught"

III. Ears to Hear

How clear are your ears?

"Why do you speak to them in parables?" Matthew 13:10

We will never understand the Bible, the workings of the Kingdom of God, and the message and ministry of Jesus, unless we understand the answer to their question. (27)

"The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of the heavens has been given to you." Matthew 13:11

"But not to them." Isaiah 6:9-10 — Deaf, blind, hard hearted.

How big is your bucket?

Two Aspects of Receiving the Knowledge: Capacity & Receptivity

The folks Jesus was speaking to didn't have very big buckets.

A law of the Kingdom:

To those who have, more will be given.

Only as much as they (we) have capacity to receive.

Given more than you can handle won't help.

Through parables, Jesus reached out in love and humility without coercion, giving people truth in ways they could receive and retain. (29)



“10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. 14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

Matthew 13:10-15

The Path to Healing

“This is why I speak to them in parables.” Matthew 13:13-15

The S.H.U.T. Wide Open Power of the Kingdom

S – See

H – Hear

U – Understand

T – Turn

“Lest they should see...hear...understand and turn,
and I will heal them.”

Why Parables?

Teaching by placing two things next to each other

Parable (def.) - *“To place or throw alongside.”*

- † One of the primary ways Jesus disrupted the default way of thinking in His culture. (27)
- † Provide clarity about what the Kingdom is like. (27)
- † Allow the listener to choose to hear or not, to see or not. (29)
- † An act of mercy because our hearts are hard. (29)
- † Help people begin their exploration of his Kingdom. (29)
- † They offer us a way to unlock our hearts. (30)
- † Allow us to grow into the truth of the Kingdom. (32)
- † Allow and require time & space to think, to reflect not argue.
To meditate on them to allow our understanding to grow,
blossom and bear fruit. (33)
- † Illicit in our mind response to the Spirit of God, in such a way that it relies on a personal relationship with God...To love the guidance of the Holy Spirit and understanding truth. (33)



The parables of Jesus work like yeast in us, changing how we see God, ourselves, and the Kingdom. The illustrations and examples Jesus chose for his parables planted seeds in the minds and souls of the listeners, slowly sprouting, and taking form bringing listeners into another Kingdom in which a different kind of life prevails. He was and is our wise and practical teacher. (34)

“The Kingdom of God is like leaven...” Matthew 13:33





Parables — *Time release capsules*

- Hear • Remember • Think Deeply • Embrace •
- 1. Culturally Relevant
- 2. Easily Remembered
- 3. In the Context of Ordinary Life
- 4. Logical
- 5. More Meaningful as Time Passed

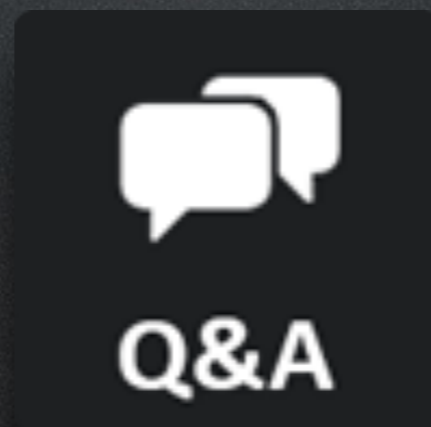
The Vessel and The Treasure (II Cor. 4:7)

The treasure is the Kingdom of God

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

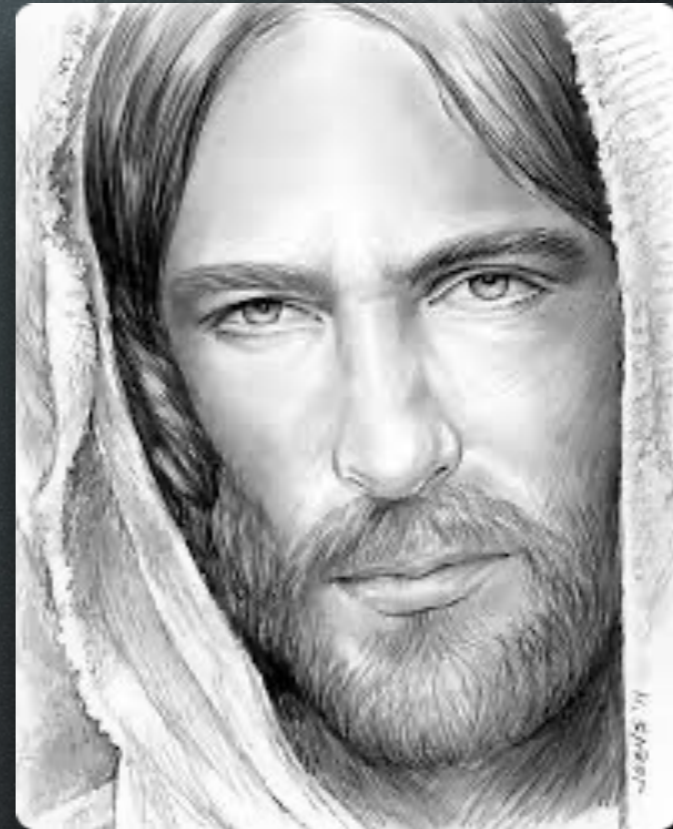
(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Summary of Session 2

Out of genuine humility and deep love for humanity, Jesus taught with parables to give humankind the time to understand how the Kingdom of God can integrate into daily life with God.

It is our part to learn to listen and take heed.



The Genius
Storyteller

Meditation — *Matthew 13:10-15*

Application

VISION - What does “the great inversion” of life in the Kingdom look like?

INTENTION - Do I want to hear God, and see and seek His Kingdom?

MEANS - Read Matthew 13 this week and reflect how Jesus taught...and why.



Teaching by Dallas Willard (audio)
Harbor Church, Harbor City, California, 1983*

["The Parabolic Teaching About Christ's Kingdom by Christ Himself "](#) (link)
[Summary of each topic and the related scriptures.](#) (PDF)

- 1: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God and How It Comes: Why Parables?
Teaching methods of Jesus and why he used parables
Important things about the faith and message of Jesus [40:35]
- 2: The Diverse Receptions of the Word of the Kingdom [49:56]
The Parable of the Sower
- 3: The Secret Manner of the Kingdom's Working: The Leaven and the Seed
The Parables of the Seed and of the Mustard Seed [45:15]
- 4: The Great Supper. Kingdom Birthright for a Mess of Pottage. [41:35]
The Parable of the Great Supper; Jacob Steals Esau's Birthright
- 5: Growing Together Until the Harvest - Wheat & Tares; Dragnet [42:07]
- NOTE: There is no recording of "Growth & Responsibility"*
The Parables of the Minas Luke 19:12-27 & Unjust Steward Lk 16:1-12
Go to ["The Divine Conspiracy" lecture 12](#) (video) [59:30-1:02:15]
- 6: The Vineyard and the Wicked Husbandmen [42:14]
The Parable of the Vineyard
- 7: Two Sons (Matt. 21:28-32), Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50) [41:42]
Two more sons - The Prodigal Son & Elder Brother (Luke 15:11-32)
- 8: The Ten Virgins and the Evil Watchman. Revelation of the Heart [42:41]
- 9: The Forgiving Heart & the Kingdom of God - Unforgiving Servant [46:35]
- NOTE: There is no recording of "The Outrageous Compassion of God"*
- 10: The Folly of Possessions and Riches - The Rich Fool [45:30]
- 11: Persistence: Unprofitable Servant, Persistent Widow [47:00]
The Pharisee & Tax Collector
- 12: The Good "Half-Breed" and Full-Blooded Stinkers. [41:12]
Neighborliness of the Kingdom - The Good Samaritan

* — Dallas taught a 13-week series at Harbor Church in Harbor City, California, March 6 - May 29, 1983. These recordings offer new insights into these well-known stories, and into the way Jesus taught and lived. They provided the foundation for his book on the parables.

The Scandal of the Kingdom — (27) Parables Covered

Study
Guide
page 5

Parable	Scripture	Book Chapter	Book pages
The Sower	Matt. 13:1-23	3	38-51
The Farmer Sowing Mustard Seed*	Mark 4:26-29	4	57, 66, 68
	Mark 4:30-32	4	54, (101)
Yeast	Luke 13:20-21	4	54-55
Wedding Reception	Luke 14:8-15	5	71-76
The Great Supper	Luke 14:16-24	5	76-79
Treasure in the Field	Matt. 13:44	5	82
Pearl of Great Price	Matt. 13:45-46	5	82-83
Wheat and Tares	Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43	6	87-91
The Dragnet	Matt. 13:47-50	6	91-92, 95, 101
The Minas	Luke 19:12-27	7	108-114
Talents	Matt. 25:14-30)	7	111-112
The Unjust Stewart	Luke 16:1-12	7	114-117
The Wicked tenants	Luke 20:9-19	8	125, 127-134
Two Debtors	Luke 7:40-43	9	147-149
Two Working Sons	Matt. 21:28-31	9	149-150
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32	9	151-158
Two Servants	Luke 12:35-48	10	164-167
Ten Virgins	Matt. 25:1-13	10	169-174
Unforgiving Servant	Matt. 18:23-35	11	178-181
Day Workers	Matt. 20:1-16	12	194-203
Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-20	13	207-208
*Mustard Seed	Luke 17:6	14	222-227, 231
Profitable Servant	Luke 17:7-10	14	223-225
Widow and Judge	Luke 18:1-5	14	227-228
Shameless neighbor	Luke 11:5-8	14	229-230
Pharisee & Publican	Luke 18:7-14	14	232-235
Certain Samaritan	Luke 10:30-37	15	246-253



80:00 + 10K

Two Dallas teachings to complement Session 2

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

1: "Gospel of the Kingdom of God (last part) [31:00-40:35]

~ ~ ~

2.) "The Divine Conspiracy Lecture" #6 (video)

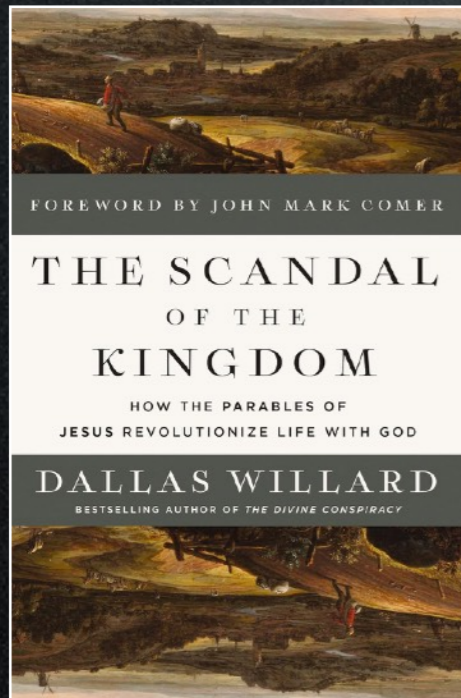
"Jesus' Teaching" [55:55-1:05:25]

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube

12-part video series

(Transcript is available at JesusCollege.com)





Next Week — Session 3

“Why Parables?”

Read Ch. 3 (36-52)

and

Matthew 13:1-23

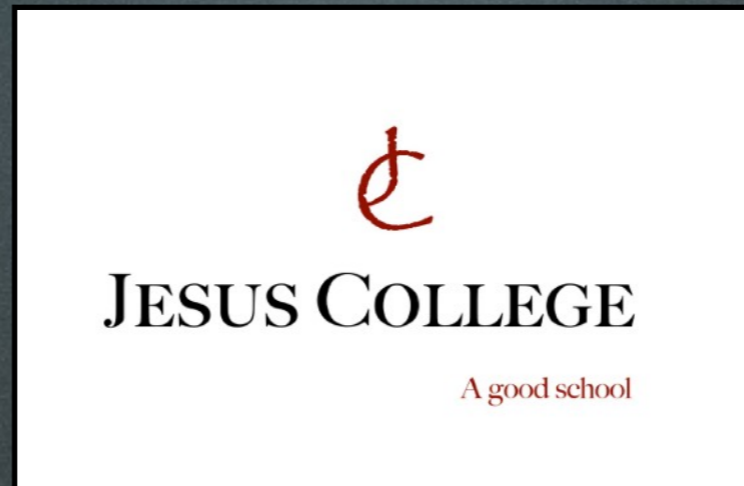
Invite others?

Register at info@JesusCollege.com

May your next 10,000 minutes be filled with seeing the Kingdom at work, hearing the word of the Kingdom, understanding how the Kingdom works, and turning to walk with the King to increase your capacity to receive more knowledge of Kingdom secrets.

Doug





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“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

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

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