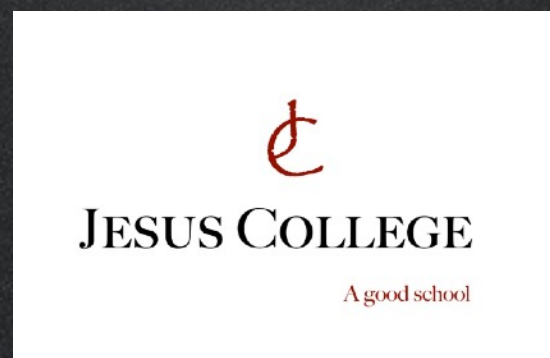


WELCOME to a 15 week course
THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM
by Dallas Willard
presented by

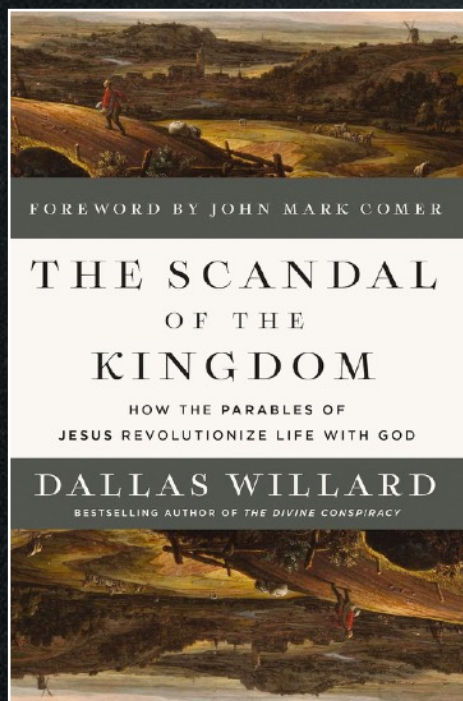


Review of Session 10

“Ready with a full lamp”

In union with God, we accomplish great things, watching for the opportunities where we give our best, secure in the confidence that He who appointed us will also give His best. (176)





THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM

Session 11 - “The Miracle of Forgiveness”

Chapter 11 (p. 177-190)

“The Unforgiving Servant” — Matthew 18:21-35

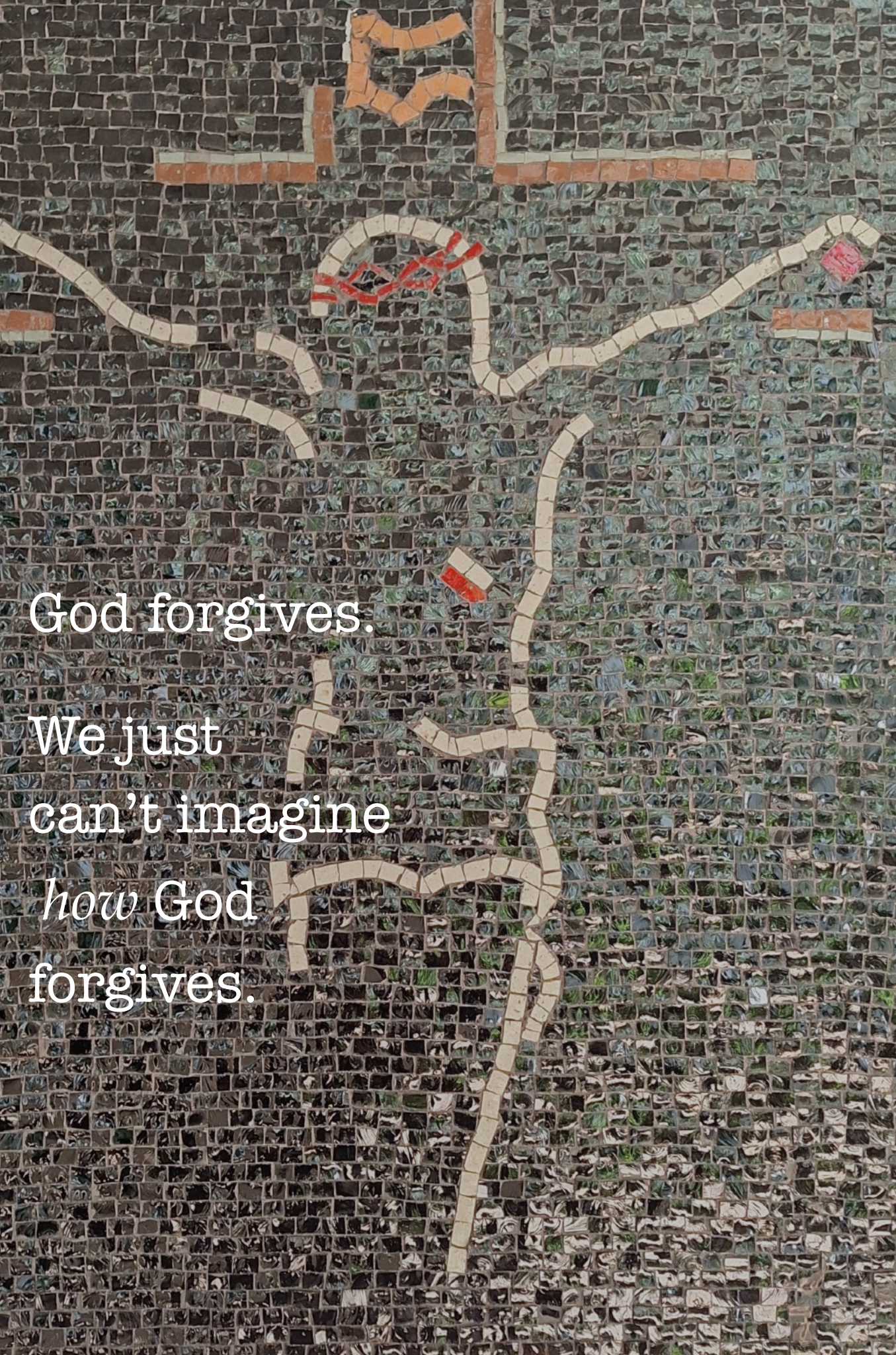
I - The Gospel is the Story of Forgiveness & Shalom

II - Forward-Giving

III - Becoming a Forgiving Person

IV - The Power of the Cross

V - Experiencing & Expressing Forgiveness



God forgives.

We just
can't imagine
how God
forgives.

Forgiveness is a miracle...

...a tremendous act of grace
introducing us into the
whole world of God.

(177)

“Lord, how many times should I forgive?”

$$70 \times 7$$

Jesus forgiveness math

Session 11 - “The Miracle of Forgiveness”

I - The Gospel is the Story of Forgiveness & Shalom

Matthew 18:21-35

The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. Matthew 18:26-27

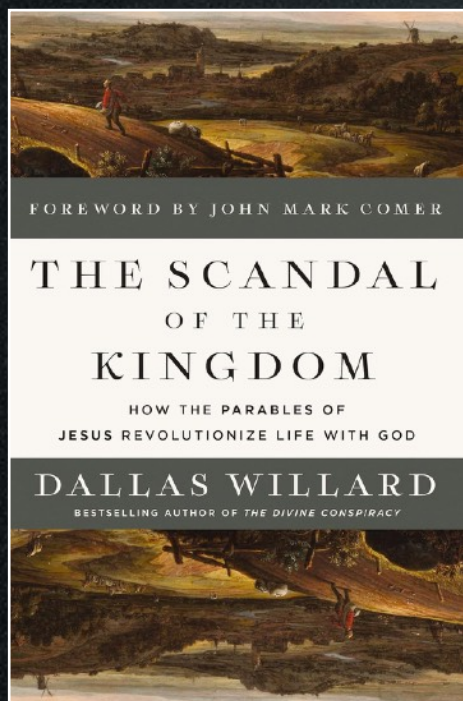
“The Power of Asking”

God answers prayer because we ask.

“Astounding generosity” (179)

“Unfettered acceptance” (150)

“Outrageous compassion” (191)



The World's Forgiveness

Un-forgiveness is a normal way of human nature: Just the way it is.



Nation vs. Nation
Generation to Generation



“Getting even.”

Having the last word.

Throwing the last punch.

Reality - No-one gets even!

“Above all, put on love.”

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ declares an end to the battle of [getting even.] It announces from the heights of Heaven that God doesn't want to even the score, but rather He invites you and me into a life where we no longer need to either. This is an expression of the nature of the gospel of Jesus.



Dallas Willard
The Scandal of the Kingdom
(181)

The spiritual practice of NOT having the last word.
Means we cease trying to...
get back at others,
catch up, or
get ahead.

This is the only way peace can come to the human
heart. Until WE rise above getting even,
peace will never reign...in marriage and families.

The offense takes up residence in the heart and
eats away.



(181)



Forgiving persons lay down all plans to get even.

Getting even is a tremendous burden,
and it is a great relief to let it go.

(181)

Session 11 - "The Miracle of Forgiveness"

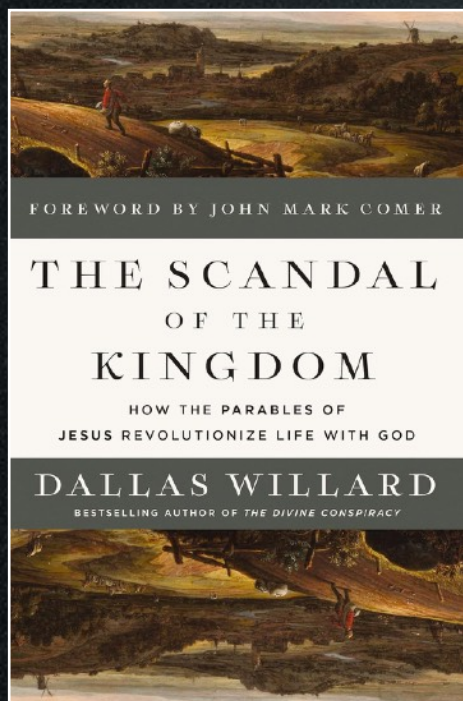
II - Forward-Giving

Forgiveness is forward-giving

It does not hold on to the past,
making the other person suffer.

- † We no longer hold them responsible.
- † We lay down the grudge.
- † We no longer brood (on the inside.)
- † We choose to look to the future.

(181-182)





The Power of Pain

Pain is not always bad. *

Living in the Kingdom of God, we remember pain
but we are not consumed by it.

(182)

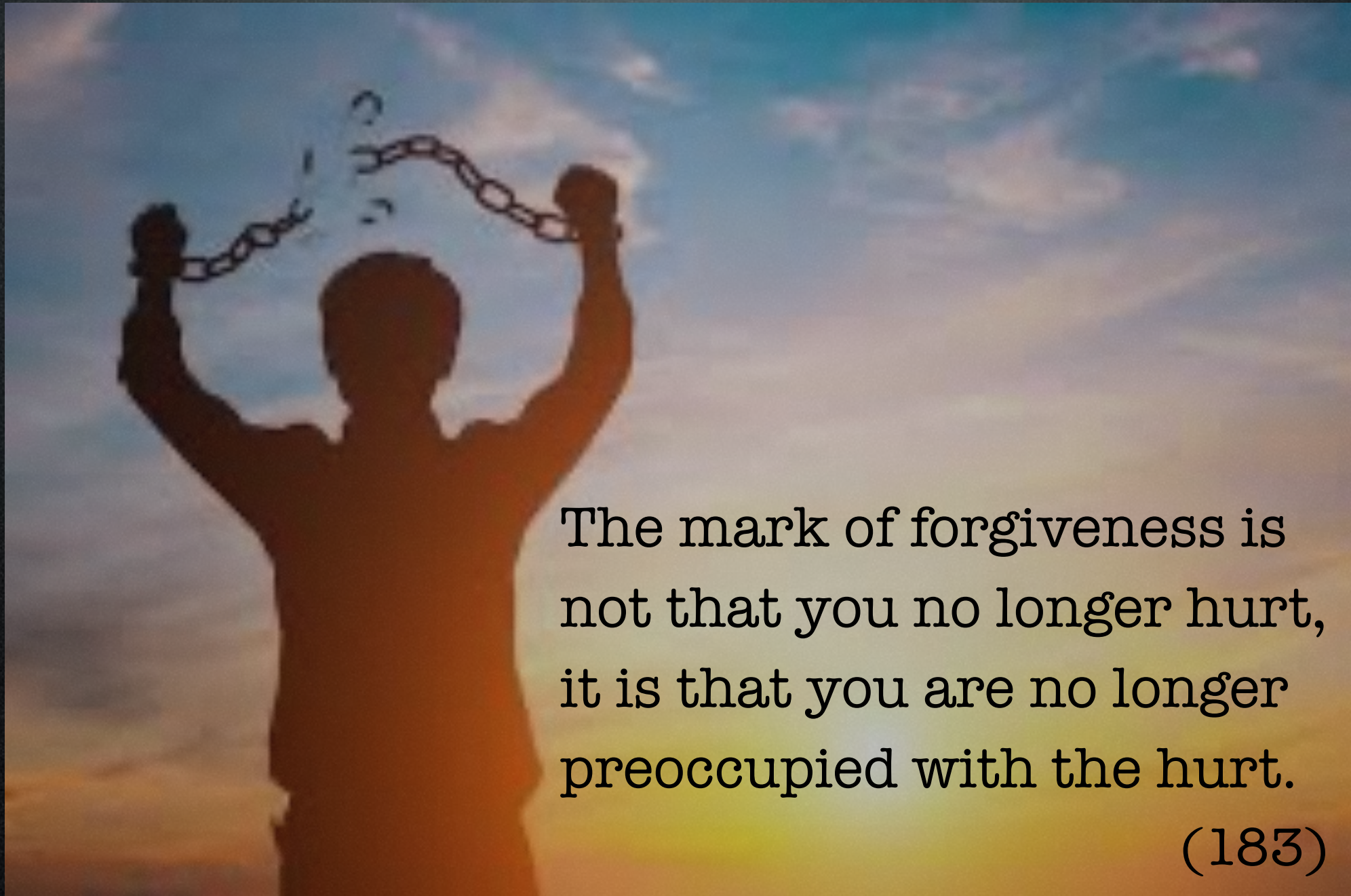
* *The Allure of Gentleness*, “The Problem of Pain & Evil” , ch. 6

To forgive does not mean to forget.

God can help you with that, and maybe someday
you will forget. (182)

To forgive does not mean you stop hurting. (183)





The mark of forgiveness is
not that you no longer hurt,
it is that you are no longer
preoccupied with the hurt.

(183)

Session 11 - "The Miracle of Forgiveness"

III - Becoming a Forgiving Person

The V-I-M of Forgiveness

VISION - To grow into a person who readily forgives.

INTENTION - Do I want to be someone who forgives?

MEANS (183-184)

1st — Don't dwell on what I am trying to become.

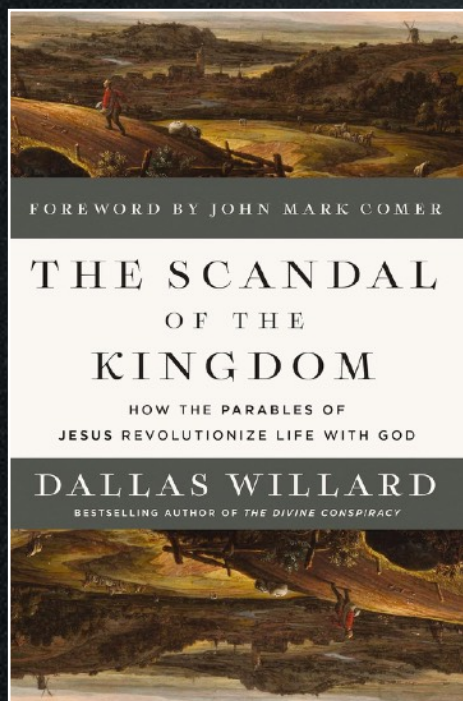
Focus on something else.

2nd — I can not "will" becoming a forgiving person.

Fill my mind with Jesus and how He responds to hurt.

3rd — Ask for God's grace. "Lord, help me forgive."

It takes time for forgiveness to come. Be patient.



The V-I-M of Forgiveness (continued)

VISION - To grow into a person who forgives.

INTENTION - Do I want to be a forgiving person?

MEANS (continued)

4th — Concentrate on the good to be done.

Dwell on goodness in daily, small things.

Flowers ~ Dogs ~ Small talk ~ Garden ~ Ducks

“People primarily live at the level of small things.

Turn to those. God gave them to you.”

(185)



Session 11 - “The Miracle of Forgiveness”

IV - The Power of the Cross

“Father, forgive them
for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23:34

Jesus — A generous heart proficient in forgiveness.

Take baby steps — small, manageable amounts.

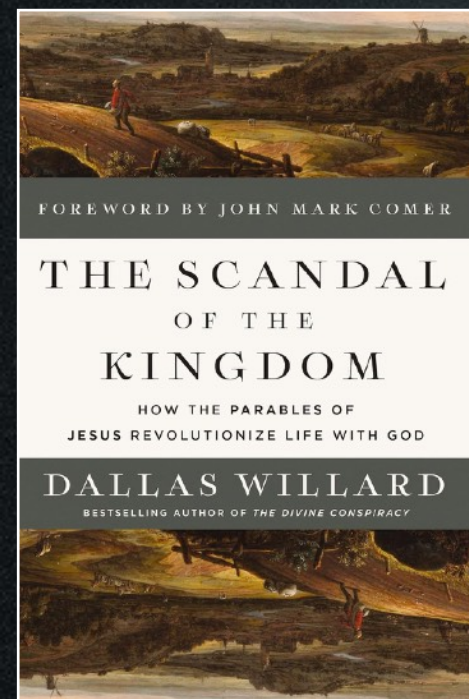
Pray for the good of the offender.

They don't know better, literally lack knowledge.

Don't try to will yourself to forgive. Ask for help.

Forgiveness is the best thing. Simply the wise thing.

(186-187)



Forgiveness is available because of the **great heart of God** that played itself out in history and culminated on the cross where Jesus died.



God arranged and made provision for our salvation in a way that invites us into **His kind of life**...
...a favor possible for all human beings.
(187)

Session 11 - “The Miracle of Forgiveness”

V - Experiencing and Expressing Forgiveness

Not Earning, but Receiving Forgiveness

“This is how my Heavenly Father will treat
each of you unless you forgive your
brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:35

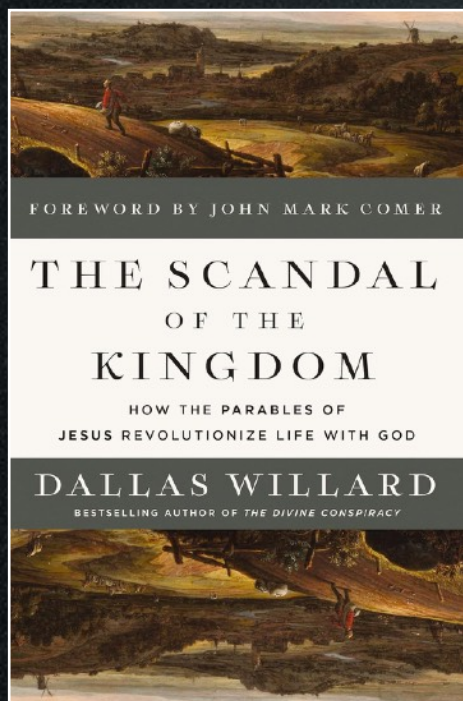
~ ~ ~

“And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.” Matthew 6:12

“If you forgive, your Father will forgive.”

6:14-15

*If you do, He will. If you don't, He won't
because we can't.*



I believe Jesus was saying that in order for us to receive the forgiveness that comes from God, we must have **a certain kind of heart** and life shaped by the **grace** of God in us.

When we concentrate on the work of Christ as we apprentice ourselves to Him, we step into the flow of that **grace** to receive a forgiving **heart** – a **heart** that can reach out in faith and accept forgiveness from God.



(188)

“There's a certain paradox in the doctrine of atonement, which you may have been struck with. Because, you see, God made all the provision for our salvation, did He not? But on the other hand, often the atonement is presented as if somehow Jesus had to do what He did in order to get God's *favor*. But if He had to get God's favor *first*, God would never have sent him, would He?”

Dallas Willard
The Parabolic Teaching about Christ's Kingdom
Audio #9 @ 28:40

People who have no knowledge of a forgiving heart had not had an experience of forgiveness. (188)

We love as loved. 1 John 4:19, Romans 8:32, 39

We forgive as forgiven.

Forgiveness becomes “a way of life.”

We stand in this “mode of forgiveness.”

We are forgiven and *cleansed*.



The connection between God's forgiveness of you and your forgiveness of others is intertwined with the reality of Him living in you. And if you do not forgive, if you *cannot* forgive, it means at least in some significant measure, that He does not occupy that part of your heart. If He is there, He is enabling you to forgive. And if He is there, you are forgiven. We receive forgiveness and enter into it as a way of life.

God is in the business of forgiveness.
And so are we.

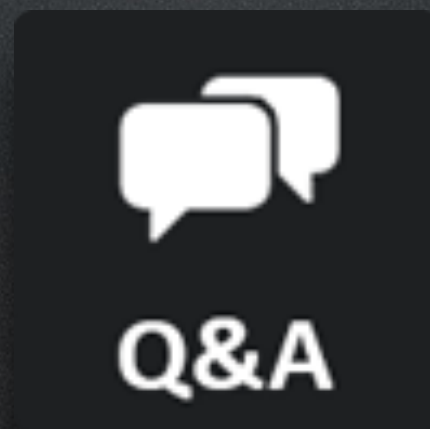
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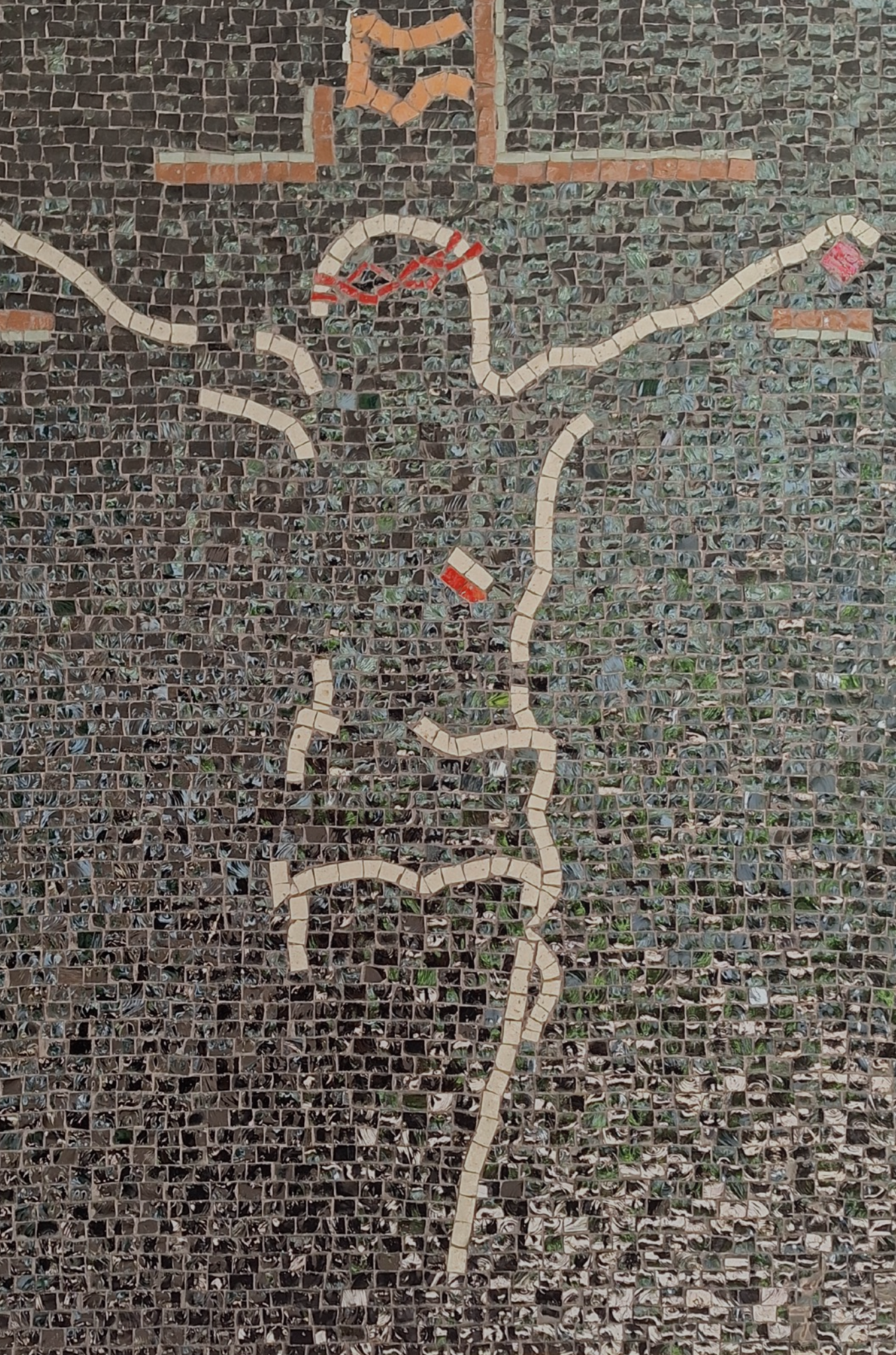


Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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





Summary of Session 11

Forward-Giving

Forgive one another as Christ forgave you by becoming the kind of person who puts on love through the grace you find in your life with Jesus.

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *Matthew 18:21-35*

Application

VISION - Where can I see shalom rising above advantage or vengeance?

INTENTION - Honestly, how often do I want “getting even” not grace?

MEANS - Practice not having the last word this week.



† Cross Fit



**An audio teaching by Dallas
to complement Session 11**

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

#9: Forgiving Heart & the Kingdom of God:
Unforgiving Servant [46:35]

Next Week — Session 12

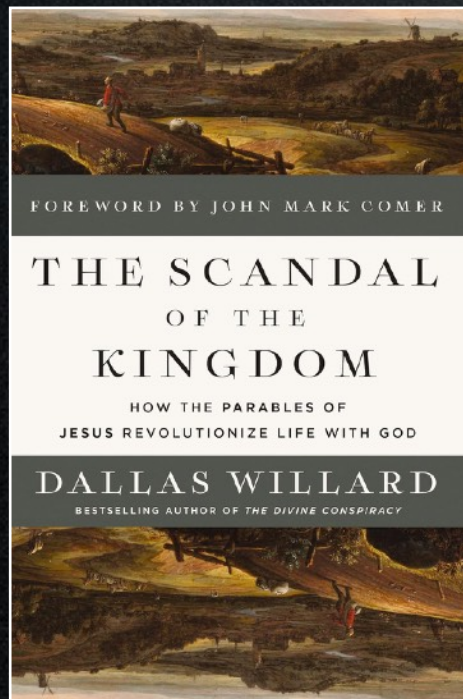
“The Outrageous Compassion
of God”

Chapter 12 (191-203)

and

“The Vineyard Workers”

Matthew 20:1-16



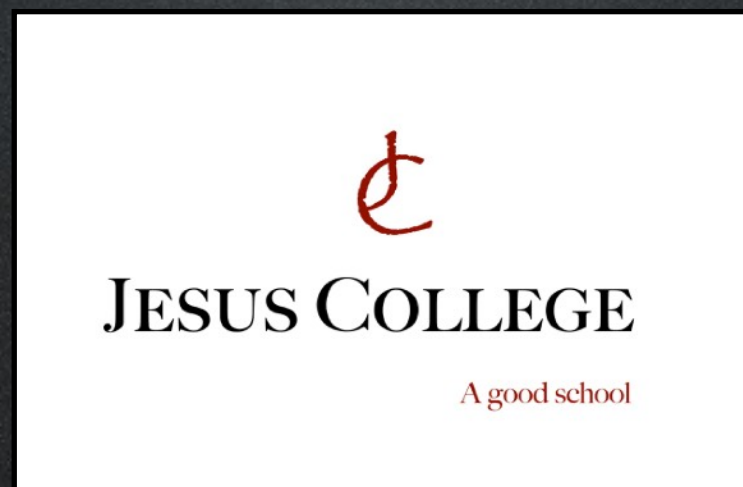
*May you know you'll never
earn enough to pay your
debt to God or get even with
others, but by the grace of
God shown in His loving
forgiveness, the heart of
Jesus is forming you in His
proficiently forgiving way
of life.*

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”*



** - Like Jesus with His generous heart proficient in forgiveness.*

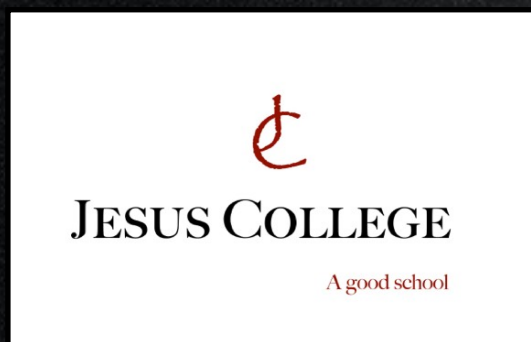
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