

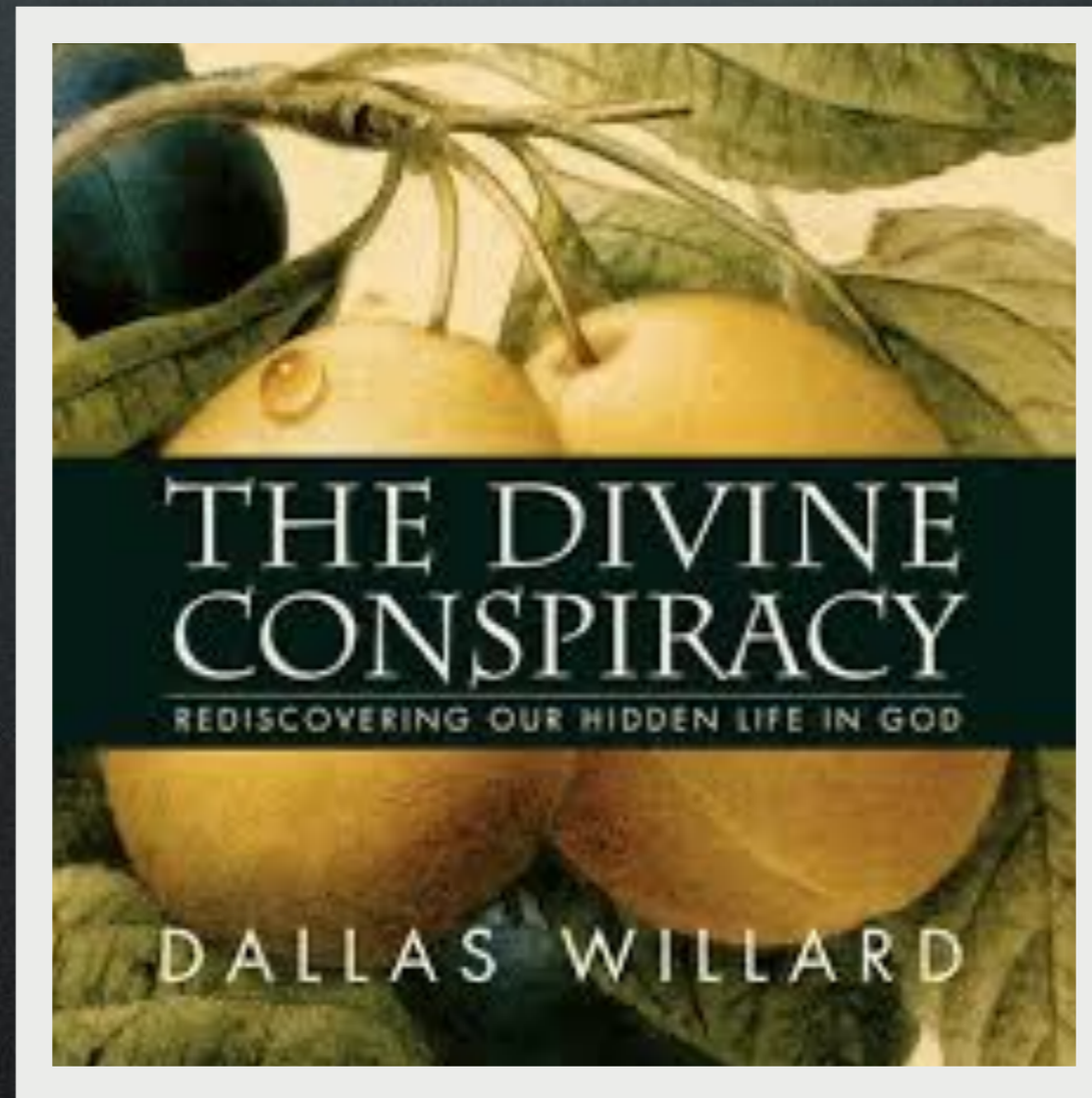
WELCOME to a 31 week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 4 — Who is Really Well Off? The Beatitudes

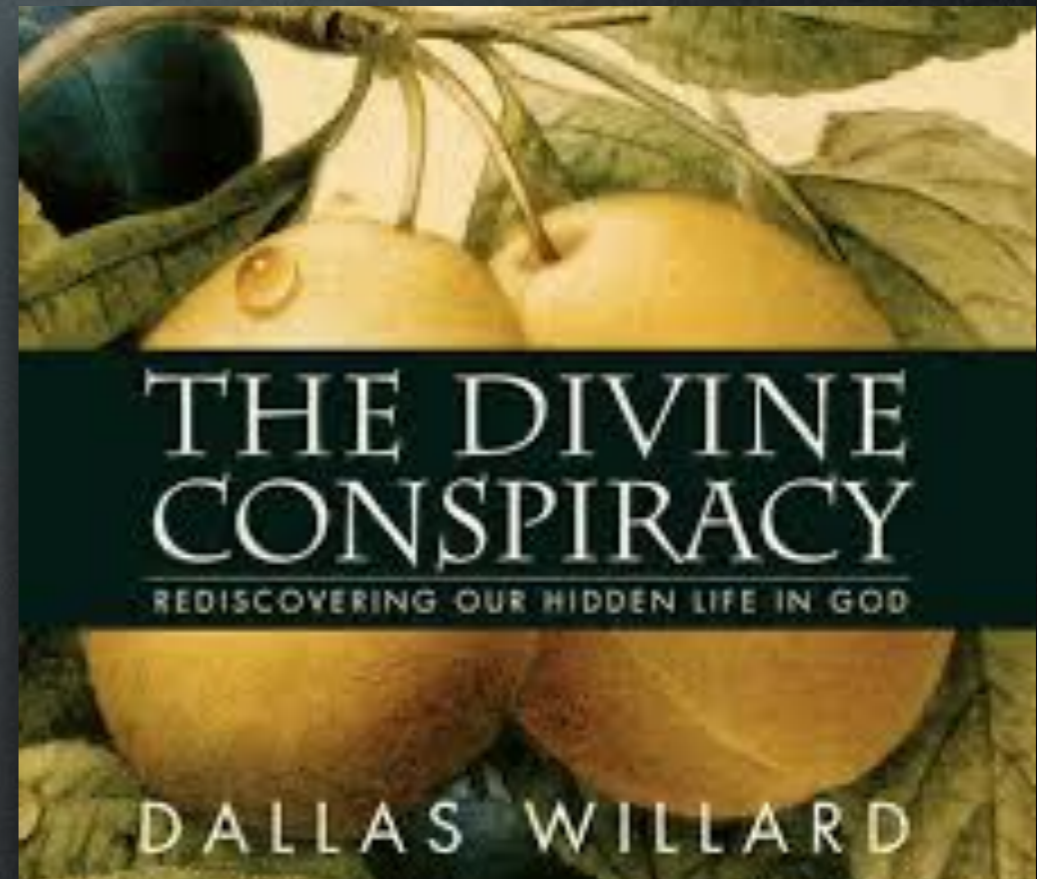
Session 12 - “What Jesus Really Had in Mind with His Beatitudes ”



Session 11 Review

Jesus not only taught in this manner, he also taught us, His students in the Kingdom, to teach in the same way. By showing to others the presence of the Kingdom in the concrete details of our shared existence, we impact the lives and hearts of our hearers, not just their heads. And they won't have to write it down to hold onto it.

(114)



When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

17 He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. 20-22 Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“...POWER was coming from him and healing them all.”

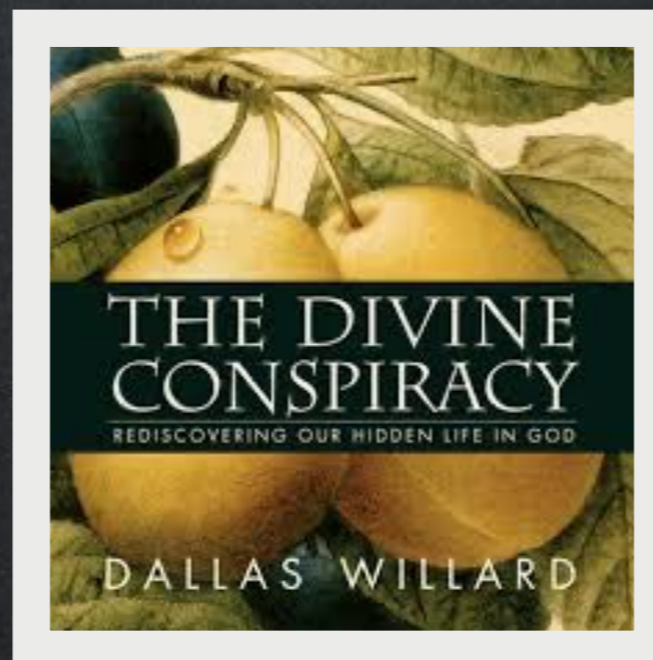
(v. 19)

“Blessed are you...,
for yours is the kingdom of God.”



Session 12 - “What Jesus Really Had in Mind with His Beatitudes ”

- * What then does Jesus say to us with His Beatitudes?
- * How are we to live in response to them? (116)



What Jesus Had in Mind with His Beatitudes (114-122)

—> Luke's Version of the Beatitudes (114-115)

Four groups of people who are blessed as God's provisions from the Heavens come upon them. (115)

—> The Beatitudes as Kingdom Proclamation (116-119)

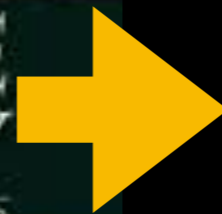
Availability of God's rule and righteousness to all of humanity through reliance upon Jesus Himself, the person now loose in the world among us. (116) (and 119, 122, 124)





THE DIVINE
CONSPIRACY

REDISCOVERING OUR HIDDEN LIFE IN GOD



KINGDOM TECHNOLOGY

DALLAS WILLARD



The Beatitudes as Kingdom Proclamation

Poor in spirit...Mourn...Meek...Hunger & Thirst
Merciful...Pure...Peacemakers...Persecuted

Sometimes I'm told the reading of the Beatitudes given here works well except for "hunger & thirst" and "pure". But if old "engineering" or legalistic interpretation is wrong, it is wrong for these as well. The reading is inherently credible:

"dikaiosunen" - Righteousness*

* "What makes you a really good (agape) person"

[N.T. Wright — "Covenant Justice"]

"hoi katharoi te kardia" = pure in heart

In contrast to *The Divine Conspiracy*,

“Jesus says that real happiness—blessedness—comes from mature character. Disciples principally care about character because the Lord cares. Jesus says that God blesses a mature character.”

Dave, a Blogger from a popular Bible Study tools website

Beatitude under the Personal Ministry of Jesus

Thus by proclaiming blessed those who in the human order are thought hopeless, and pronouncing woes over those human beings regarded as well off, Jesus opens the Kingdom of the Heavens to everyone.

(119)



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Who is Really Well Off?

Jesus in the LCBP Community

Jesus...healing every kind of disease, every kind of sickness...all who were ill, suffering diseases, pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics.

Matthew 4:23-24

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me...He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the POOR. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the PRISONERS and recovery of sight for the BLIND, to set the OPPRESSED free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus replied, "Report to John what you hear and see: BLIND see, LAME walk, LEPERS are cleansed, DEAF hear, DEAD rise, and the good news is proclaimed to the POOR. Blessed** is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Matthew 11:4-6

** Blessed refers to the highest type of well-being possible for humans beings, but it is also the term the Greeks used for the kind of blissful existence characteristic of the gods. (120-121)



—> **The Great Inversion.** The list of hopeless cases that are blessed through the sufficiency of God to meet them in their appalling need. The personal ministry of Jesus from His present Kingdom brings them beatitude..the humanly hopeless, as they experience the hand of God reaching into their situation, is possibly the most pervasive theme of the biblical writings. (121) (and 88, 90, 105, 178)

The Beatitudes are lists of human ‘lasts’ who at the individualized touch of the heavens become divine ‘firsts’. The gospel of the Kingdom is that no one is beyond beatitude, because the rule of God from the Heavens is available to all. Everyone can reach it and it can reach everyone. (122)

Can we concretize the gospel even more for those around us?



Making the Message Personal

You are really walking in the good news of the Kingdom if you can go with confidence to any of the hopeless people around you and effortlessly convey assurance that they can now enter a blessed life with God. (122)

Jesus took time in His teaching to point out the natural beauty of every human being...The personally condemned, teens & young adults, the crushed, broken — the silly, the serious, the immoral — “God’s grubby people”. (123-125)

*“Blessed! Blessed! Blessed!
As they flee into the of the Kingdom Among Us.”*

“It is the effulgence* of the Kingdom among them.”



* Noun (*def.*) *Radiant Splendor: Brilliance*



The condition of life sought for by human beings through the ages is attained in the quietly transforming friendship of Jesus.

(124)

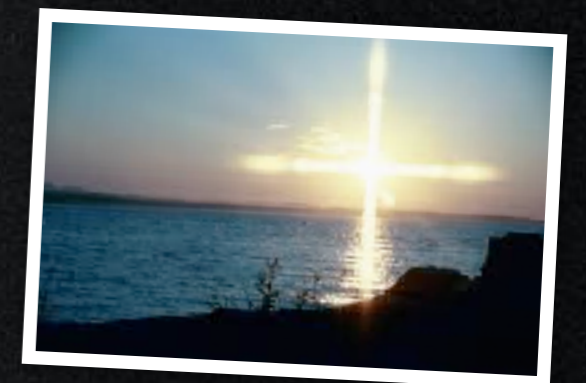




Salt & Light

These little people, without any of the character or qualifications humans insist are necessary, are the only ones who can actually make the world work.

(125)



17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-20

Fulfilling What God's Righteous Law Looks Like

They had not heard just another powerless list of legalisms, however pretty, and they knew it. They had heard an upside down world being set right-side up.

(126)

Jesus' proclamation clearly dumped them - the rich, educated, "well born", popular, powerful - out of their privileged position and raised ordinary people with no human qualifications into the divine fellowship by faith in Jesus. (127)



In Matthew 5:20 and following [the rest of the Sermon on the Mount], Jesus will explain what the law really means for human life under God.

Exactly how they are to respect the law and move beyond the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees we shall see... (127)

~ ~ ~

“The Law and the Prophets had become a system of privilege. That’s why Jesus slaps the whole system in the face with the Beatitudes.”

Dallas Willard, “Humans Side of Holiness”
Session 14, “Life & Transformation” [0:27:35]



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

Meditation — *Luke 6:17-26*

Application

Q — Who is on my list of hopeless bless-ables?

Q — How does my “thinking have to be rearranged” (121) to understand the way of the Kingdom?

Q — How am I cultivating my “quietly transforming friendship with Jesus”? (124)



Session 12 Summary

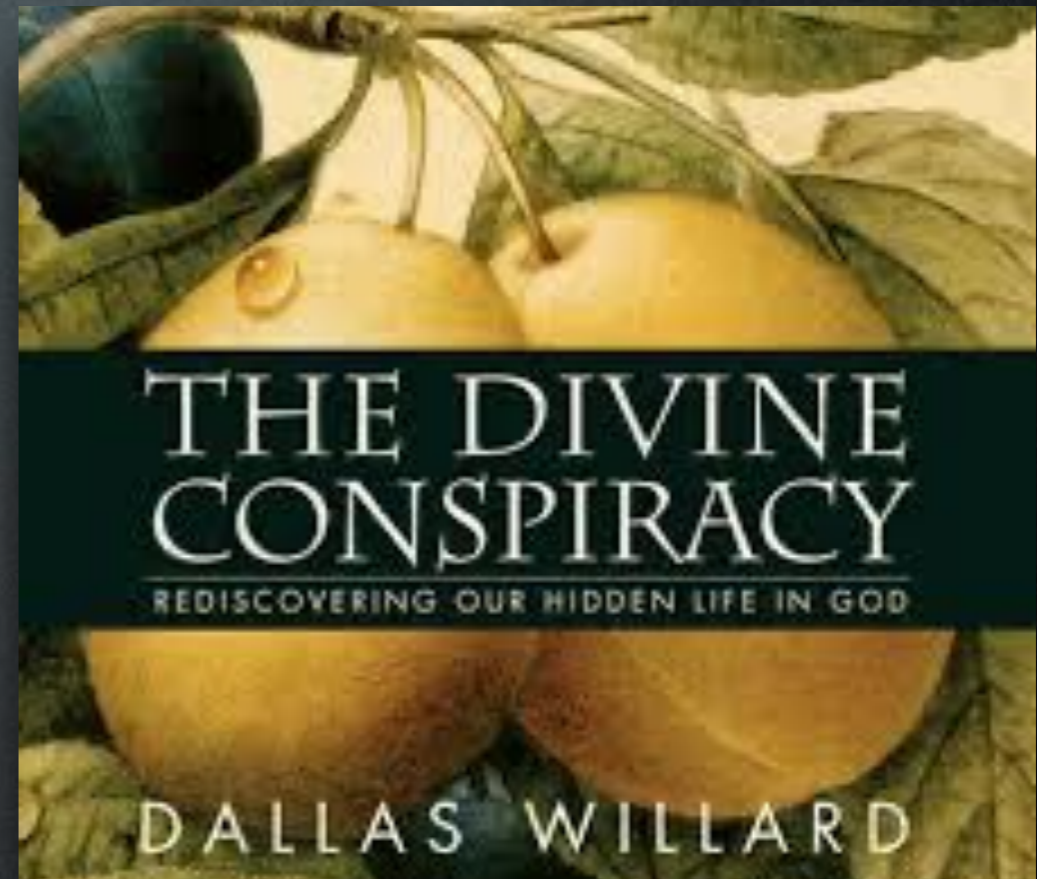
** What then does Jesus say to us with His Beatitudes? (116)*

The hopeless are blessed. The well off are woeful. Jesus opens the Kingdom of the Heavens to everyone. (119)

No one is beyond beatitude. (122)

** How are we to live in response to them? (116)*

God gives us light and makes us salt to illuminate, cleanse, preserve, and flavor the times through which we live. (125)



80:00 + 10K



“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”
Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

The Harvey Fellows 2004 Summer Institute
[12-part video series link](#)

Course Session 12 * Recommended Teachings

“Blessed to be Salt & Light” — [DC #10 30:35-42:50](#)

(119) pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

<https://www.jesuscollege.com/dallaswillard-thedivineconspiracy>

* See the Course reading schedule for related teachings

Next Week — Session 13

Ch. 5 - “The Rightness of the Kingdom Heart:
Beyond the Goodness of Scribes & Pharisees”

“Master of Moral Understanding;
The Law and the Soul”

Hardback - pp. 129-147

Paperback - pp. 145-164

For Recorded Sessions + Slides, go to:

[JesusCollege - The Divine Conspiracy](#)

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May your friendship with
Jesus be flavorful and
illuminated to your
neighbors over the next
10,000 minutes to whom
you will say,

*“Blessed, blessed, blessed
are you!”*

Doug



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



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