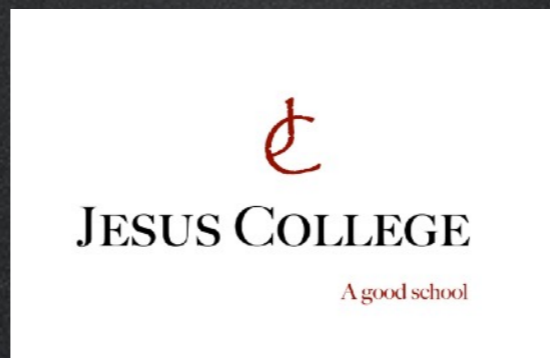
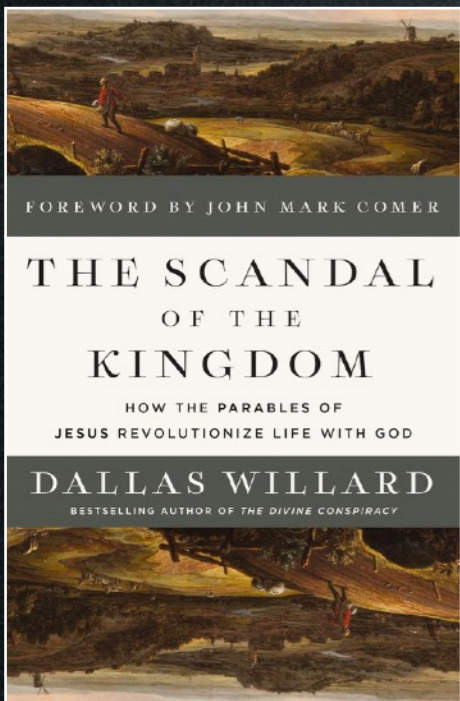


WELCOME to a 15 week course
THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM
by Dallas Willard
presented by





THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM

Session 3 - "Why Parables?"

Chapter 3 (p. 36-52)

- I - The Parable of the Sower — Matthew 13:1-23
- II - The Soils of the Soul
- III - Take Heed, Hear God

Review

F.I.T.O.

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

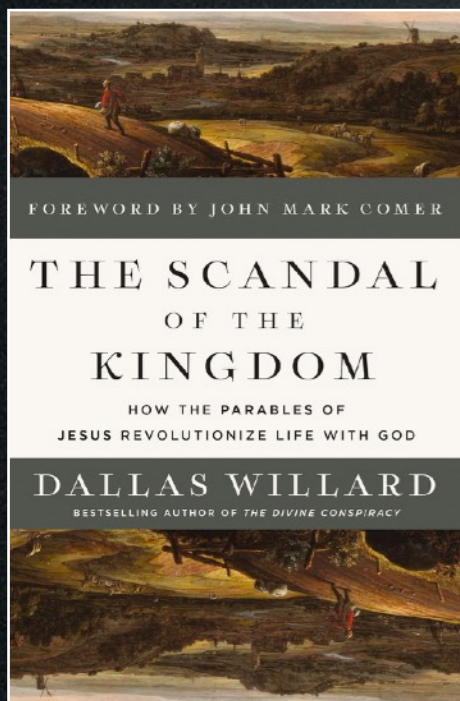
Out of genuine humility and deep love for humanity, Jesus taught with parables to give humankind the time to understand how the Kingdom of God can integrate into daily life with God.

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

*The Genius
Storyteller*

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





Session 3 - "Why Parables?"

I - The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

Theme: Hearing the Word of the Kingdom in distractions and the condition of our hearts, minds, and lives.

Three-fold ministry of Jesus — Matthew 4-12

† - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God - Mt. 4

† - Teaching the Law of the Kingdom - Mt. 5-7

† - Healing with the Life of the Kingdom - Mt. 8-9

More teaching about the Kingdom of God - Mt. 13



Session 3 - "Why Parables?"

I - The Parable of the Sower (continued)

The first parable was in response to the large crowds and the varied reactions to what Jesus was saying.

Sowing Seeds vs. Growing Weeds

The Parable of the Sower is...

...without one religious word. (39)

...where the "seed" is the Word of the Kingdom. (39)

...one of the most important parables Jesus gave about the Kingdom of God. (40)



I - The Parable of the Sower (continued)

*Why doesn't the "seed" - the Word of the Kingdom -
have the effect on people we might hope for?*

Why doesn't God just change people? (40)

FREE WILL - Not what God "can" do but "will" do.

We have to find the ways God's Kingdom works!
A Kingdom of love, understanding, maturity under
the most glorious being allowing "your way."

HARD HEARTS – Think Pharaoh with Moses



(40-42)

I - The Parable of the Sower (continued)

Teaching those who have ears to hear!

(Remember “capacity & receptivity”, i.e.,
the “size of your bucket” from chapter 2?)

The Power of the WORD - the “lego” - forming things!

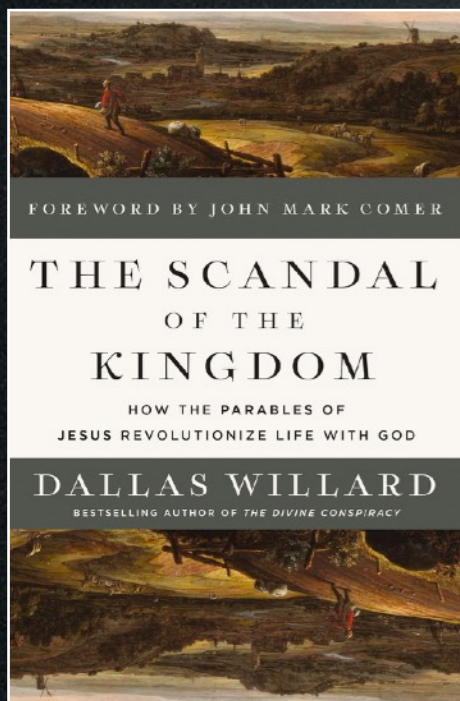
The Power of the WILL - we decide to listen. (43)

- This parable is about how our will responds to God.

The Power of the MIND - what am I dwelling on?

There are some thoughts I will not think!





Session 3 - "Why Parables?"

II - The Soils of the Soul

How Jesus explains the parable

SOIL SAMPLE #1 – The Wayside (13:3-4)

Satan finds a way to keep the Word out of our minds. (44)

1.) Detour – Something more important

2.) Distract – Slogans & ideas like birds in our head

3.) Distort – Using God's Word for our purposes

4.) Detach – Loneliness and not getting along

SOIL SAMPLE #2— Stony Ground (13:5-6)

“This is wonderful” meets with character — long running patterns or habitual ways of behavior.

Feelings respond with no true repentance.

Faith lasts for a little while, but trial or persecution triggers offense.

“Without the roots of character, the good news withers.”

(45-46)

SOIL SAMPLE #3 – Thorny Ground (13:7)

“Treasures & Pleasures”

“Worldly infants” - 1 Corinthians 3:2-3

“You can’t serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24

See Matthew 6:19-34

With a mind piled high with treasures
and pleasures, we can’t focus well.

We have a bondage that entangles us.

The thorns keep us from hearing the good news.

(46-48)

SOIL SAMPLE #4 — Fertile Ground (13:8)

“An honest & good heart” - Luke 8:15

Hearing the Word

 Holding on to the Word

 Acting in connection with the Word.

The will affects how we hear. As we use our power of choice to turn our minds to God, we have greater contact with God throughout our day, developing a ‘conversational relationship with him.’* We bring the reality of God into our lives by making contact with him through our minds, and then our actions are based on the understanding that results from the fullness of that contact. (48) [* - See *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard]

The Tainted Soil

SOIL SAMPLE #1 — The Wayside (Matthew 13:3-4)

SOIL SAMPLE #2— Stony Ground (13:5-6)

SOIL SAMPLE #3 — Thorny Ground (13:7)

“An honest & good heart” - Luke 8:15

~~The Tainted Soil~~ → Soil Conditioner for Your Soul

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14:6-7

SOIL SAMPLE #1 – The Wayside (Matthew 13:3-4)

"I am the way" to direct the wayward on the wayside.

SOIL SAMPLE #2 – Stony Ground (13:5-6)

"I am the truth" to deepen the roots of the response.

SOIL SAMPLE #3 – Thorny Ground (13:7)

"I am the life" to focus on true treasures.

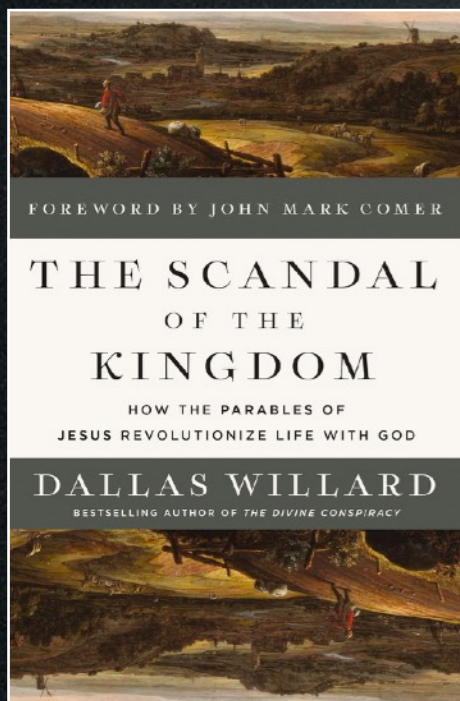
There is a Kingdom of God we're all invited to live in, and we can know it by experiencing its reality. We can come to know the presence of the King in our lives with such constancy and power that even when we were suffering great pain or lying down to die, we can feel and know the presence of the Kingdom and be blessed.

Our inward turning toward God allows us to turn toward others. The redemptive fellowship of the body of Christ heals our loneliness in this Kingdom where we don't need to carry our burdens alone. It's a wonderful thing to be loved to the point where you will never feel you're alone again.

There is nothing mysterious here. This is why the mind, and what we turn our minds to, is the key to our lives.

The Harvest = 30/60/100

(48-49)



Session 3 - "Why Parables?"

III - Take Heed, Hear God

"The Word of the Kingdom" Mt. 13:18 (6 x's on 49-50)

The soil condition determines the seed's depth.
{Again, the "size of your bucket" to receive. (28)}

That doesn't mean you'll stay in the soil. The sower intends for the "light to not be covered."

Luke 8:16

"Take heed" = pay close attention to how you hear.

The humble act of listening by asking ourselves,

"Where are my heart and mind before God?"

III - Take Heed, Hear God

The word of God comes to us in a hearing kind of life, a life lived in the Spirit with a mind attuned to the Trinity. The Word of God comes and fills our lives if we want it, but we have to want it and seek it. And if we don't want it, God will allow us to live the “with me” life – the source of all our troubles – instead of the “with God” life, which is a life of growth and abundance.

The Sower is Jesus.

The Seed is the Word of the Kingdom.

The Soil is my character.

(50-51)

Attuned to God

{The last 3 paragraphs of this chapter are a succinct presentation of *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard.}

“When we begin to seek the Word of God, we become the kind of people who are able to hear God’s voice.”

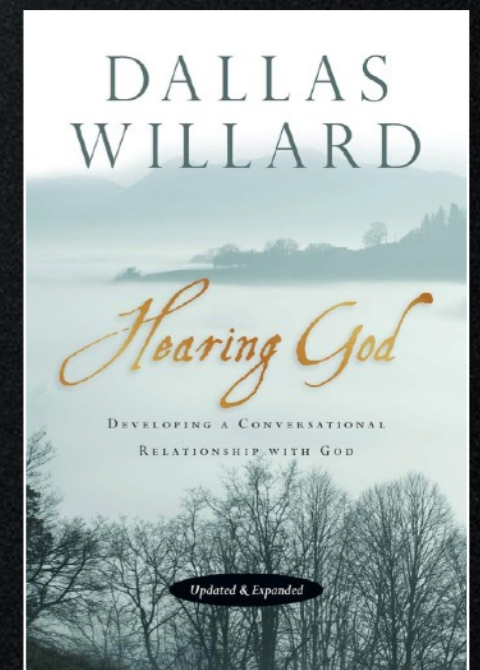
A reality charge from Dallas...

If we listen with care, we will increasingly learn to recognize God’s gentle word.

If not, we won’t recognize it.

Jesus modeled spiritual life practices to grow in hearing God and other areas of our lives.

(51)



The “With God” Life

Being attuned to hearing God's word and receiving it into the fertile soil of our lives comes from lives marked by friendship with and confidence in God.

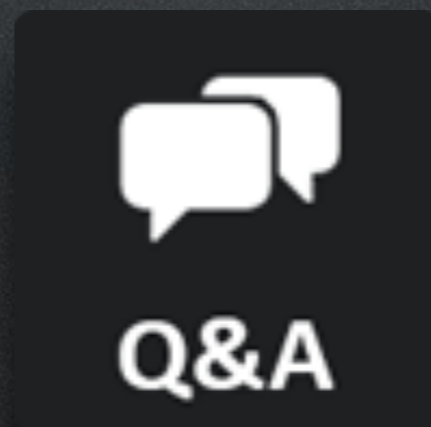
This is the “eternal kind of life” in conversational relationship with God. *John 17:3*

...a life of abiding in Jesus Christ, where we bear much fruit, shine before men, and where our works give glory to our heavenly Father. *John 15:5, Mt. 5:16*

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Summary of Session 3

Being attuned to hearing God's word and receiving it into the fertile soil of our lives comes from lives marked by friendship with and confidence in God.

It is our role to “take heed” by thinking about what we willfully choose to think about and to practice cultivating good soil for God’s Word to flourish.



Meditation – *Matthew 13:1-23*

Application

VISION - Where do I see the different soils in my life in the past and now?

INTENTION - “Take Heed.” What stifles the fruit of God’s Word in me?

MEANS - Take a walk with Jesus this week to tend the soil of the heart.

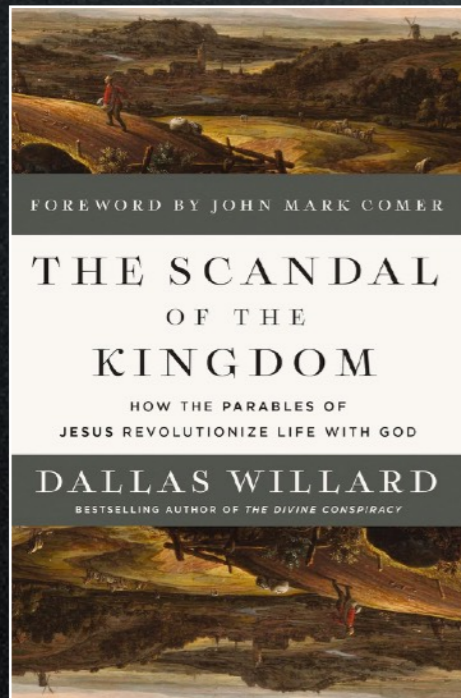




Dallas teaching to complement Session 3

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

#2: Diverse Receptions of the Word of the Kingdom -
The Sower [49:56]



Next Week — Session 4

“The Secret Inner Working
of the Kingdom”

Read Ch. 4 (53-69)

and

Mark 4:26-32

Invite others?

Register at info@JesusCollege.com

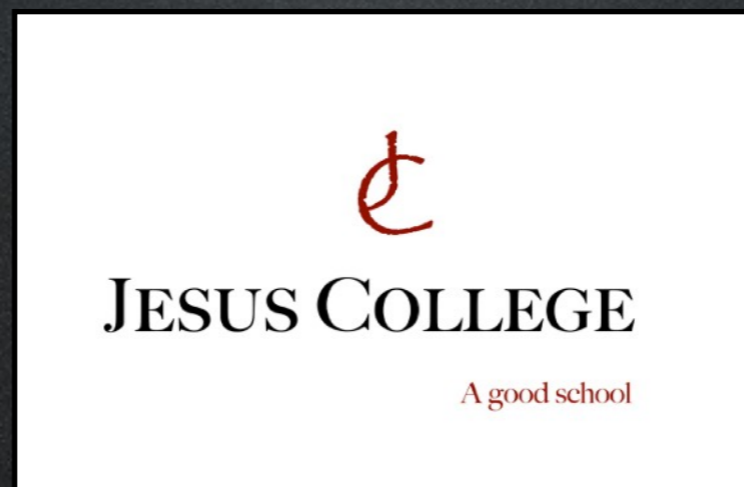
May you invest your next 10,000 minutes with Jesus in the holy horticulture of your soul to grow more into the kind of person who hears the Word of the Kingdom in your daily life.

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”



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