

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series
Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

Scribe’s Comments - The session was transcribed from the recording in good-faith effort but it is not verbatim. The **bold** and underline offer the scribe’s emphasis.



“Kingdoms in Cooperation” (audio) (Renovare Session 3 of 6)
[2/4 on YouTube]

Luke 12:24-34

24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?[d] **26** If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;[e] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! **29** And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. **30** For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, strive for his[f] kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus is referring to the fact that God is in charge of the world and He makes provision for every kind.

This is a deep teaching about the kingdoms in this world - the plurality of kingdoms in this world. You were created with a kingdom for your in mind. There is no such thing as a person without a realm in which they rule.

A child automatically has a domain of influence. You have to be corrupted to not be influenced by the presence of a baby. Grandparents really feel the dynamic presence of a baby. As you grow, God’s intention is that your kingdom should expand. *“Humble yourself before the mighty God and in due season He will exalt you.”*

That only is a problem when someone is in to exalting themselves.

Submit your kingdom to the mighty hand of God. You should have a sense of the significance of your life. You were brought into a place, a time, a family. He wants his creativity to flow you. Life in you that comes from being renewed by the birth from above to expand and grow.

"Living in the Kingdom of God" Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

"Let your your light shine before men that they would see our good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."

They would be thankful to God that you exist. As your kingdom grows in God's kingdom, people would be thankful for you.

That's what human community should be. Everyone is thankful for others.

Colossians 3:17 - *"Whatsoever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

In the Name - on his behalf from His resources.

"All power has been given to me on Heaven on Earth..."

When I go out, I go in that power. That is a great adventure I'm set free in to. My life is finding the greatness of God. All the failures of the past, I set those aside. Those are in God's hands. I pick the things I do today up. Jesus said don't be afraid little flock.

* Gideon 6-7 - Too many soldiers. Had to send them home until he got 300.

* Church - It is never a problem that we don't have enough people. The problem is the quality of people who are gathered. *"Where 2 or 3 are gathered, in my name, I will be in their midst."*

Kingdoms in cooperation - yours in God's kingdom, your friend's in God's kingdom - they are working together.

I always work with people in God's presence. That's why I never force people to do things. Rest means stop getting people to do things. If we think God is in charge, we will release them into His kingdom.

"Vengeance is mine says the Lord".

The secret of laying down "paying back". God knows better what he's doing.

* Peter with Jesus - *"I have prayed for you"* Luke 22:32

When the kingdoms come together, we deal with one another thru God.

Jesus could have arranged to keep Peter from denying Him.

When we pray for people, we are handling them through God.

Speak under God not to trust your cleverness or authority. To say it and relate it to God and let God make happen.

Prayer is a causation through God.

* Weeds - pull them don't pray about them. God can trust you with that.

* Loved one with employment or family issues - it's too big for you. It has to be done with God's kingdom - "Kingdoms in cooperation"

Acting in Daily Business

[21:45]

When you act, you act with God. You recognize you have a kingdom as God’s appointed place for you. “I am alive, I have abilities God has given me.” He creates creators. The image of God in you is your creative will. Your capacity to have dominion. **Genesis 1:26**. That is a good thing. It’s only bad when you run your own kingdom. That’s why God had to take the reigns out of Adam & Eve’s control. We use it against one another. That would be okay with people were in subjection to the Kingdom of God. A major part of history is the progressive understanding of how to use power. Human beings want to use that for their own kingdoms.

The Secret and Meaning of Babel Today

[25:00]

For human beings to take charge of creation. The limitation place by God is to divide human beings until the time comes when Christ makes a kingdom in which they can all rest. That’s what’s happening in human history. You are a part of that. There was a time when you were born. God said, “Now it’s your turn.” God has prepared a kingdoms for you from the foundation of the world. Before there was a world, God had you in mind. I’m hoping you’re going to understand the dignity of the kingdom that God has given you and that you going to think, “There is more to life that not being wrong.”

There is a great world and a great God and His kingdom is all around. You’re a part of that in nature and now your opportunity is to come alive to God in His Spirit and live in that kingdom now and go forward as part of His kingdom.

“Fear not little flock.”

Some of us have issues with our background. Perhaps we came into the world and it was not a good situation. We had to defend ourselves - way we look, how we were treated as children that made us obsessed with our flesh - our natural abilities. “Flesh - unaided human abilities.” What you can do on your own. Flesh is not bad. Flesh is good. We have to be weary of “nice flesh” - qualified human abilities that are good - smart, good looking, natural strength. The problem is not just the bad stuff.

* Paul in Philippians - His birth, education like Harvard or Yale.

He called it “dung”. We can’t say that other word in church) that he may obtain Christ - step out of his kingdom and move over into God’s kingdom.

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series
Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

Idolatry - Body - Will - Mind - Social Relations - Soul - God last
Takes whatever the god is and use it for my purposes.

“The surest source of destruction to men is to obey themselves.”
John Calvin

“Whereas the primal relationship of man to man is a giving one, in the state of sin, it is a purely demanding one. Every man in complete isolation living his own life instead of living the same God life.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We put ourselves as the ultimate self. The corporate self is how we come together and build our Babels.

* Sex & Violence in our culture and movies

That’s not good art, it’s a play of the flesh. The point is we have to feel.

“Peace - restful fruitfulness.” The opposite of peace is not war, it is deadness. It’s not having a drama in which we are living and having the goodness of the Kingdom.

* News Stories - grab unfeeling peoples and make them feel

Feeling at it’s height should be worship and love and using the world God has made.

* Wood, dirt, flowers, music, paint, the texture of a relationship.

Feeling is so important.

When it goes dead because we have cut ourselves off from the drama of God’s kingdom and living in it and engaging with good and evil in our the world from the depth of the kingdom and watching the power of God move and celebrating what God has done in the past and what He will do in the future, we have to go back to something to give us a kick because we need it. That’s what drives us.

Romans 1 - The declension of human beings into a condition of almost unmitigated evil. It is turning to the body. First away from God to worship idols. That’s not enough. It degenerates into sex and violence.

Paul knew this. He goes down the line and analyzes it. That come storm turning in on our kingdom and the body becomes the focus. The flesh as the natural powers of the body becomes everything we have.

Our kingdoms are no longer in cooperation, they are in opposition. We are not able to love and know one another. We are defensive. We isolate

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

ourselves. Then we have to do something to make us feel alive. The relationships we should have under God but they are not there. Thank God some redemptive elements remain.

- * Children are a way to renew a jaded old world.
- * Animals can do that too. Dogs are the same in every culture.
- * Students at USC - I'm old enough to call my students children. I see the renewal even in their lives but sometimes they are jaded when they get there.

Mind of the Flesh and Mind of the Spirit

[38:45]

“They that are according to the flesh” - live in terms of the flesh - mind things of the flesh - their mind is set on those things - where their expectations are.

“They that according to the spirit do mind the spirit” - God, His Kingdom, His Word, the power of a Holy life.

Holiness is a fullness of life. Obedience always comes out of abundance.

The mind of the flesh is headed for starvation and death. That's what happens with the flesh.

The mind of the Spirit is life. It ties us into the life that is in God. God has life in Himself. Everything that is living receives its life from Him. Spiritual life comes when the Word comes under the anointing of the spirit in the heart and ignites confidence in God. The Word and Spirit of Christ enters and faith in Christ reestablishes communion with God.

The fundamental function of the Human spirit is to trust God. The way the human spirit does that is by turning the mind back to God.

Galatians 6:7-10 - Sowing to the flesh and sowing to the Spirit.

Sowing in investing - giving your time and energy in the domain of natural abilities. The flesh is not safe unless it is harbored in the Spirit.

Our bodies are meant to be a spiritual expression for God and our soul and of the Kingdom.

The highest manifestation of the nature of the body was the body of Christ on the mount of Transfiguration and in the Resurrection.

“As He prayed, his face became white as lightning.” The biblical name for that is “glory” - manifestation of goodness.

- * How Adam & Even didn't wear clothes because they glowed. They did not need clothing. Look at a light bulb on you can't see the bulb.

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

Why were they ashamed. They lost heir glow. They lost the natural. That's the way we should be. You've seen that on some people. You have seen the presence of that glow. People saw it in Jesus Christ.

When we take our kingdom into God's kingdom and find His goodness, we understand the power of God in our lives.

Where do we start?

[44:35]

We start where we are. It is impossible to begin anything were you are. God does not bless anyone where they are not. Human life is specific to time and place.

The pattern of change - **V-I-M**

V - Vision

The controlling thing. The vision of the Kingdom of God. You having a kingdom attended by God since the foundation of the world. To see that as God's kingdom and to say, "It is good that I am who I am." That's one of the biggest challenges to your vision to say, "It is good that I am who I am."

* Aging - is that good?

* The Beatitudes - there is not situation that is not blessed for those who are in the Kingdom of God.

Why is there aging? What does that mean in kingdom terms?

God could have arranged where you did not age. How does that fit?

No matter what, to be able to say "Blessed" especially those beyond blessing - then you've got the vision.

A real test - Stand before the mirror and say,

"It is good that I am who I am"?

That will depend on your vision. There is nothing that glows like the person who is approaching death in the glory of God. That's the way it is meant to be - a person who is rowing old in the glory of God.

* "The Devil has no happy old people. "

Everything that comes to me will be turned to good because I am alive in God's Kingdom as a friend of Jesus Christ.

"All things work together for the good", not for everyone

Unless you are called into the purposes of God and love God. You and I can rejoice in that. We are perfectly safe.

I - INTENTION

[49:35]

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

I’m going to live in that Kingdom. It is about all of life not a few religious things. The intention is to take my whole life.

You have to intend that. You don’t drift into holiness. You choose it. You don’t drift into discipleship. Your vision is what supports you. You can now intend if you have the vision.

“Fear not little flock, it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.”

So, turn loose. It’s ok to have a purse with money unless you’re hanging on to it then you’re in the kingdom of your money. There are not a lot of people in that kingdom that are blessed.

“Cursed are you who are rich.” Not because of the money but because you put your trust in it.

M - MEANS

[52:10]

The means are any of the things that will help you fulfill the intention to realize the vision. They are the area of wisdom not of righteousness.

If you are coming to church to do righteousness stay away. It will be a blessing to everyone. You come to church to do good stuff. You do things that are wise to help you like scripture memorization. You don’t do it because it is righteous but because it is good for you.

If you have the vision and intention but don’t implement the means, it will come to nothing. In the area of means there is great freedom because it is interaction with the Spirit.

If Kent & Mike show up to preach on Sunday and there are 3 people here, that’s a stage you have to go through. They will be back because they think it is wonderful to be here. That is the shift we’re talking about here. The things we do because we don’t have to do them.

* Church attendance because church is good for you. Leaders approach it in the same way - what is good for people not what is ritualistically righteous.

With that pattern, you take the...

“Day of Small Things - faithful in small things is faithful in much.”

For example, *“Let your speech always be with grace.”* Colossians 4

When you speak, you’re always looking to God to intervene.

Grace is God intervening in our lives to accomplish what we can’t do on our own.

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

When someone goes at you with their words trying to manage you. You like that? No, because they are violating God’s appointed kingdom for you.

That’s why Jesus said, *“Let your Yes be Yes and No be No. More than this comes from evil.”*

The function of words is not to manipulate people but to be a repository of grace. When you speak, you have the mind of the Spirit and you’re expecting grace to come into the relationship.

* Bowling - Body English after they let go of the ball.

If we are in the business of controlling things, that’s what we do when we talk. If it’s not full of grace seasoned with salt, it will be us trying to make something happen again.

“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God” means assuming God is in action. You acknowledge God. Take that into any area of your life and you will begin to see God’s kingdom working with your kingdom. If you do it, you’ll find God there.

* Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for his son Isaac. “Go and God’s angel will be with you and will guide you.” The servant cooked up something for the woman to answer. If you put yourself on the line, He’ll be there. We learn a lot as we go along. I know this will happen to you. You will find God in everything you do.

“Faithful in little, faithful in much.”

~ ~ ~ End of Teaching @ 1:00:15 ~ ~ ~

Q & A

Q - 1:00:40 - In what ways does your and God’s cooperative kingdoms interact in a secular university, and Christian college vs. Secular college?

A - 1:01:14 - It interacts in that context like it would anywhere. You are a disciple of Jesus and that’s open and obvious. If it’s not open and obvious, maybe it shouldn’t be. A lot of things, if they have to be spoken, shouldn’t be.

In my work, I count on the presence of Christ in the midst. I don’t assume He has nothing to do with unbelievers. I take Him into the presence of unbelievers with me. I do it very explicitly. Committee meetings are among the greatest challenges of academic life. If there’s any place you need to expect to see the glory of God, it’s a committee meeting.

Look for the hand of God.

“Living in the Kingdom of God” Series

Dallas Willard - Renovare [1:04:42]

[1:02:44] The other issue [Christian vs. Secular College] - you can not count on a Christian college to save your child or grandchild. The Christian schools are fighting much the same battles as the so called non-Christian schools. One hundred years ago, actually much less, if you were trying to talk about secular universities, no one would understand it. There weren't secular universities. If you would go back to the founding language of "Land Grant Universities" you would be impressed how much God is in it.

You have to recognize what is going to make a difference for a young person is what's on the ground when they get there.

The course content in Christian Universities does not differ from the course content in so called secular schools. In that sense, all learning today is secular. It is assumed that you can be the best educated person in any field without any knowledge of God at all. That assumption is still true on the Christian University campuses. This is part of a larger battle we've been losing for one hundred years and we need to come back.

One of the important thing for you to know if you are sending your child to a university - what is the religious life like on the campus? Look at the details.

~ ~ ~ **End of Session @ 1:04:42** ~ ~ ~

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