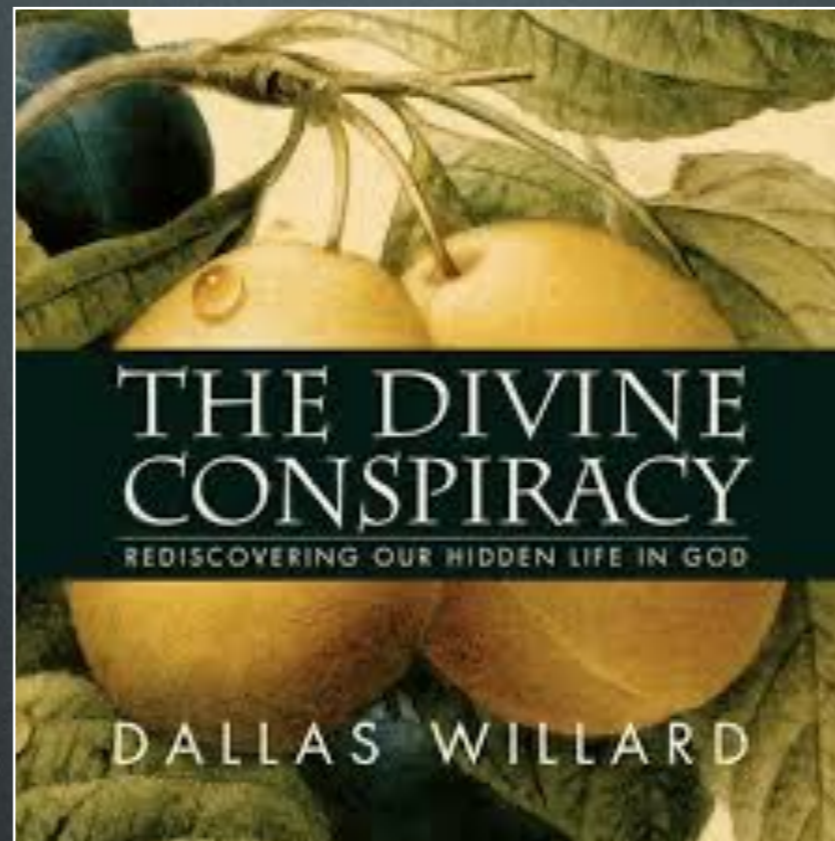


An Overview



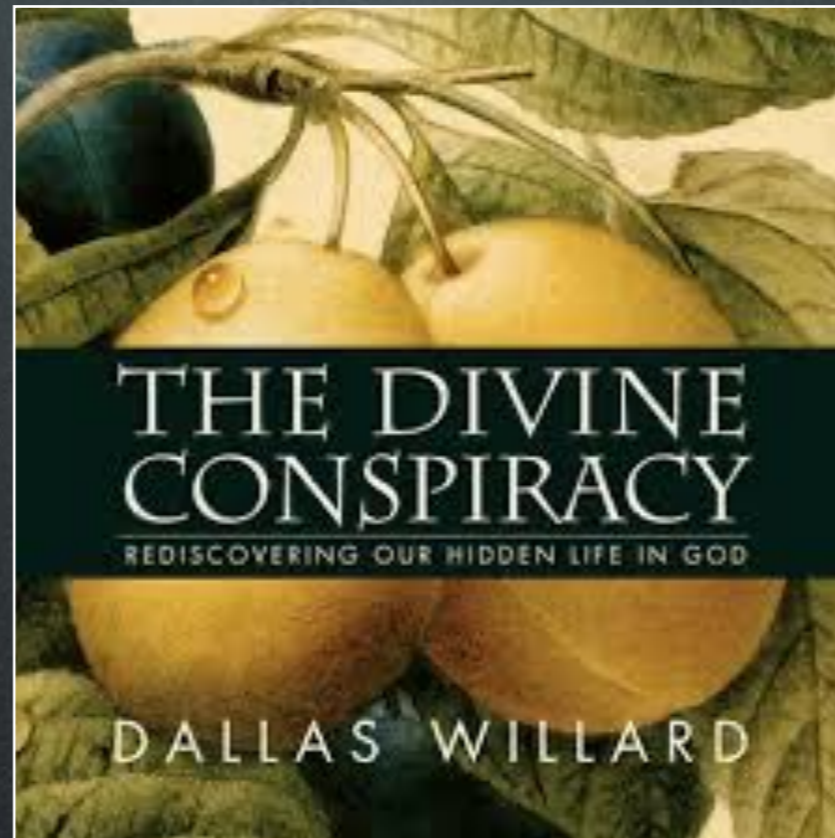
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THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Session 4 - Reputation & Resources or God?

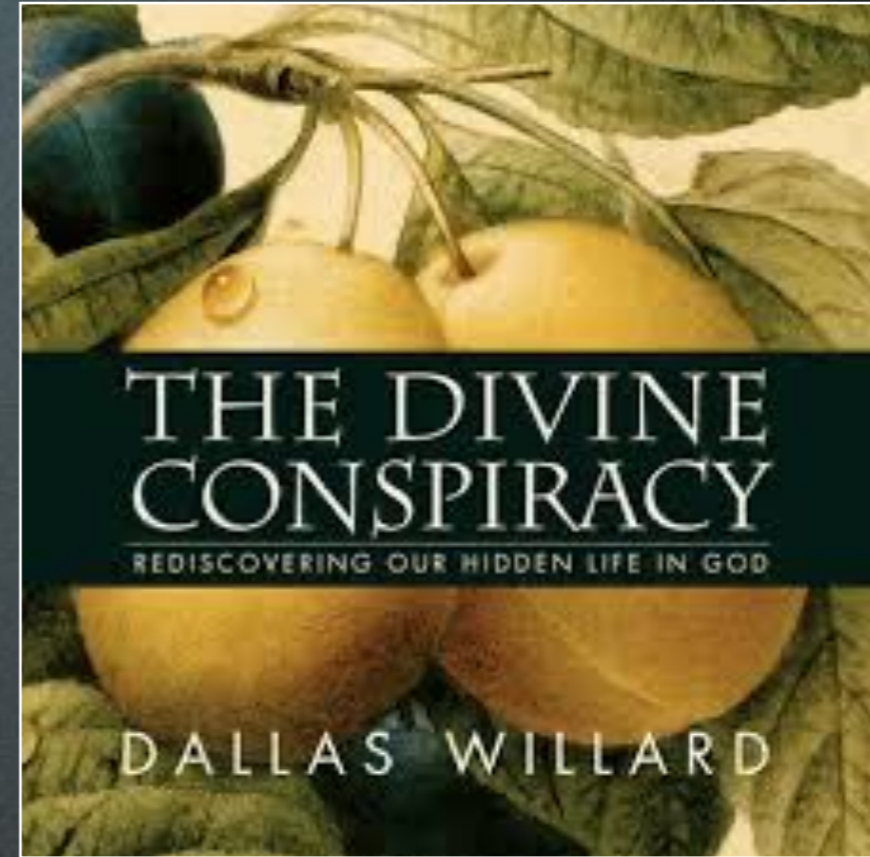
Book Chapter 6



An Overview

Session 3 Summary

“Being Salt & Light Daily”
Jesus, the Master and Maestro of true goodness, teaches and enables us through His Kingdom to be filled with the “agape” love of God in our every day, ordinary life.



Session 1 Summary

“Jesus on Eternal Life”

In an upside down, lost world absent of moral knowledge, goodness & beauty, with a truncated gospel presented by most Christians, the master teacher Jesus opens a doorway to a God bathed world offering a life that is really life thru a daily apprenticeship in His Kingdom.

Session 2 Summary

“The Beatitudes Unpuzzled”

Jesus presents the Kingdom of God now fully available, affordable. and accessible to all including the least, the last, and the lost, those not only welcomed as Kingdom citizens, but empowered as Kingdom ambassadors of the divine life found in Jesus.

Session 4 Theme

An Apprentice of Jesus trusts the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Session 4 - Reputation & Resources or God?

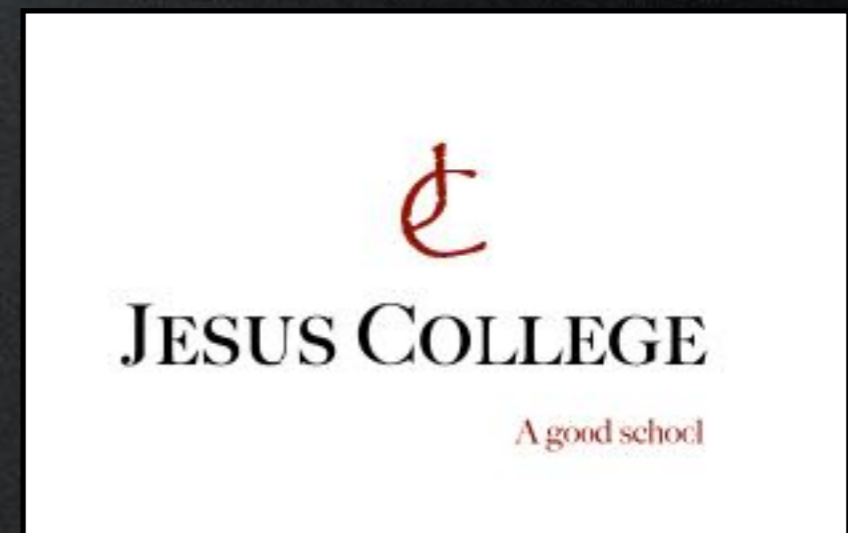
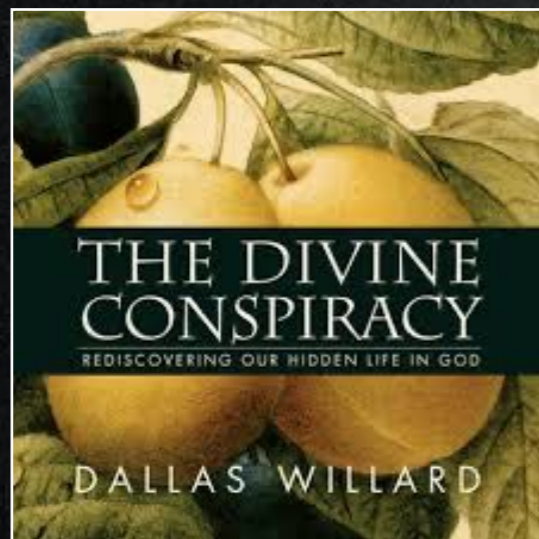
Book Chapter 6

Session 4 — Three Key Ideas

Avoiding the Reputation Trap — *Trusting My Ability*

Avoiding the Wealth Trap — *Trusting My Accumulation*

Seeking 1st the Kingdom of God — *Trusting Our Abba*



“4M IQ” – Life’s Four Most Important Questions

Q1 - What is reality?

A - The Kingdom of God.

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Q2 - Who is well off - living the good life?

A - Living in the direct availability of the Kingdom of God.

“Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Q3 - Who is a good person?

A - One permeated with agape love.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Q4 - How do I become a good person?

A - Become an apprentice of Jesus.

“Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man...”

“Be careful not to to practice *your* acts of righteousness to be seen by others.”

Matthew 6:1



Trap #1: Reputation — The Respectability Trap

Matthew 6:1-18 - Salt & Light Area #7

Who is your audience? “In order to be seen by others”

1st - Not hide our good deeds

Wait, didn't Jesus just say, “Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works...” ?

2nd - What we expect from our action

The Divine Conspiracy, p. 189-190

Remember, we are talking about
a Kingdom Heart of Inner Goodness...

“The good person,
from the good treasured up in his heart,
produces what is good.”

Jesus of Nazareth

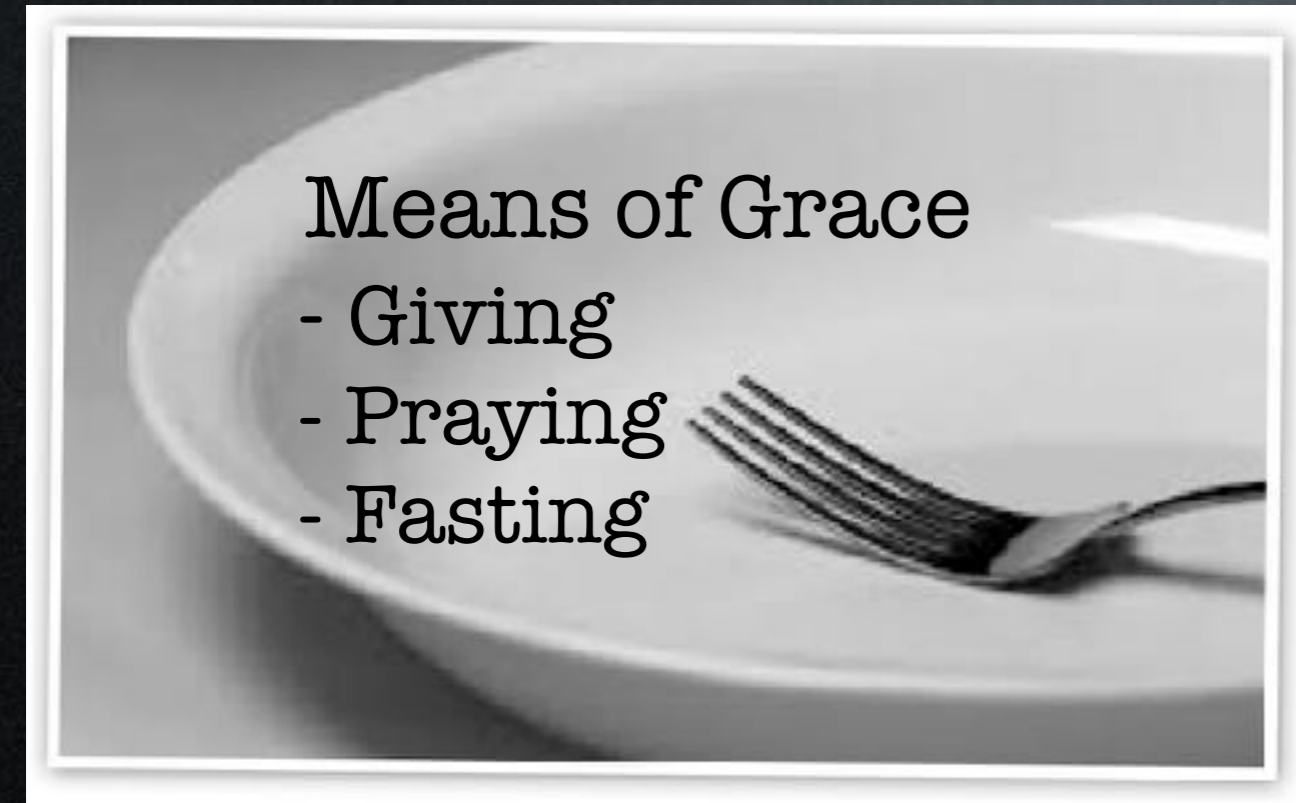


THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

4M IQ #3 - *Who is a really good person?*

Means of Grace

- Giving
- Praying
- Fasting



"The ego is bloated and the soul shrivels."

Meetings of Grace — Ineffective Gatherings



As Gathered Christians...

Jesus lays His finger upon a primary cause of their ineffectiveness as schools of eternal living. (201)

If our lives and works are to be of the Kingdom of God, we must not have human approval as a primary or even major aim. (202)





A few words from Dallas...

"Not Performing for Human Consumption"
Matthew 6:1-18

"The Divine Conspiracy Lectures" #12 (Link)

[time code 8:00 - 10:30]

Not for Human Consumption (202)

“We are not performing for human consumption, not trying to do things because it will impress people. This is one of the biggest problems in our churches, often for good ends. We want people coming back because they want to enjoy a good service. The object of the service is not to have people enjoy it. It is to bring them closer to Christ and more fulfilled in the kind of life that is in Christ - to bring people to God, to honor God, to worship God. When you watch how people get into consuming services and judging them as good or bad, you suddenly realize very often the mode of being that church services have is “theater” - a performance is being put on. That becomes very grinding to the people who realize they have to put on a performance. One of the things we have to do if we are going to use our times together as disciples of Jesus in a way that is really profitable is to reject the idea that we are performing.”

Dallas Willard, “The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”, #12 @ 08:20

Trap #2: Resource — The Bondage of Wealth

Salt & Light Area #8

Where Your Treasure Is

Matthew 6:19-20

Treasure God & His realm more than anything else.

A main part of intimacy between two persons is precisely mutual knowledge of their treasures.

Treasures are directly connected to our spirit, our will, and thus to our dignity as persons. (203)

To discuss our treasures is really to discuss our treasurings. It is to deal with the fundamental structure of our soul. (204)



Life from the Heart Matthew 6:21-24

A heart rightly directed therefore brings health and wholeness to the entire personality. (206)

We can not but serve our treasures. (207)

The treasure we have in Heaven is also something very much available to us now*. (208)

* - “Now” appears 9 times in 2 paragraphs (208)

“The Kingdom Among Us” (208)

- 35 times in the book



Remember, we are blessed in the Kingdom...

“Repent, for life in the Kingdom of the Heavens is now one of your options.” (Mt. 4:17 par)



Free from the Traps of Worth & Worry - Trust God

Matthew 6:25-34

The character of divine love (212)



31 “So do not worry, saying,
‘What shall we eat?’ or,
‘What shall we drink?’ or,
‘What shall we wear?’

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:31-34

Worth in Birds & Flowers & My Worry Torn Life

Matthew 6:25-34

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We have no reason to ever be anxious. This present world is a perfectly safe place for us to be. (66, 208)

The reality of Kingdom immediacy. (209)

You are an unceasing spiritual being
in God's great universe.¹

~ ~ ~

This the true dignity of the Human Being.
This is why they were worth dying for!

“He shall see the travail of His soul
and be satisfied.” Isaiah 53

You are spiritual is substance,
you are never ceasing in duration,
you are ruling or creative in destiny.

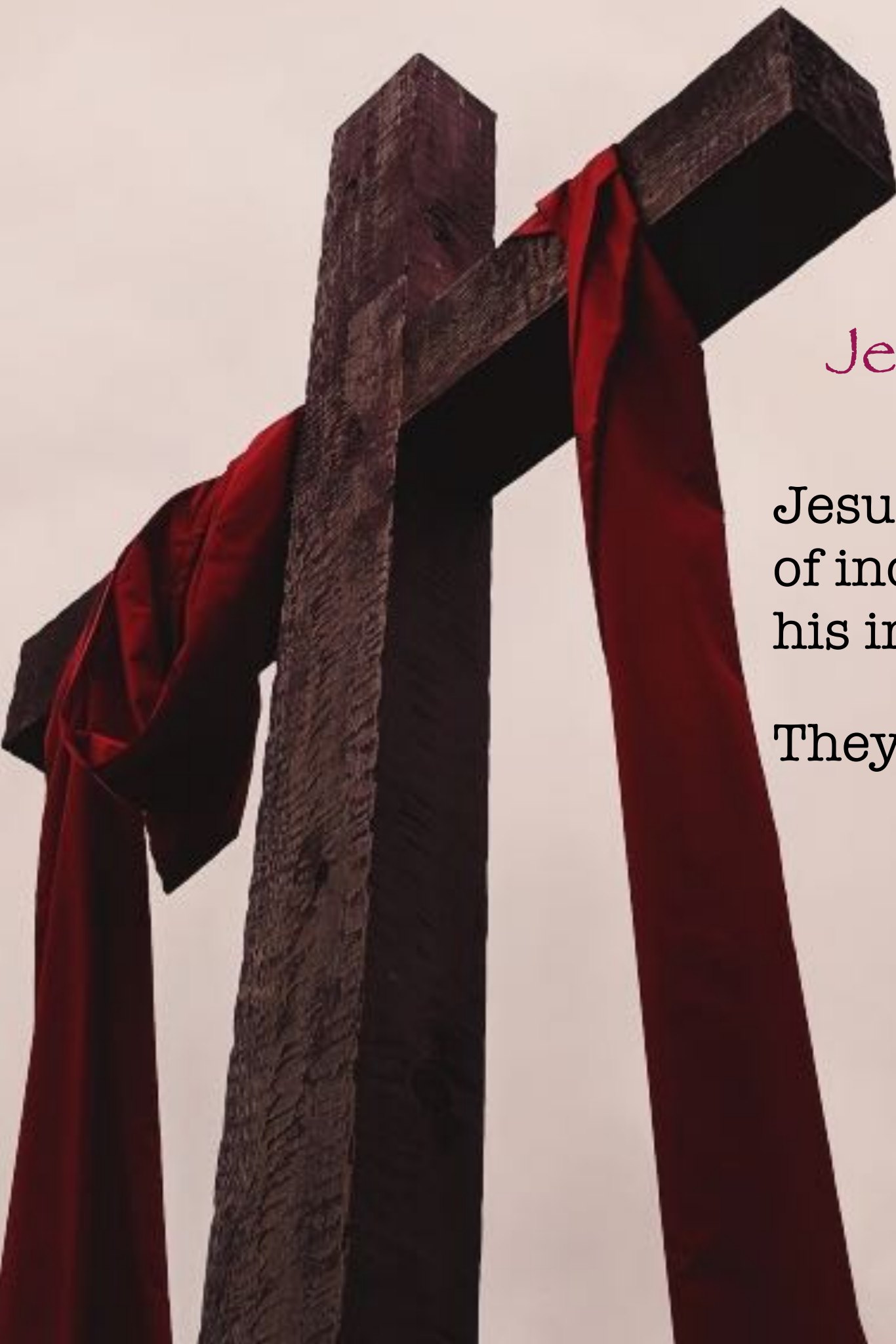
Your life as a spiritual being is completed only
by living in and from the Kingdom
government from the Heavens.²

“Repent, for the Kingdom of the Heavens is at
hand”, (“has drawn near”).

1 - *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 211

2 - “The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”, Session 2 @ 1:10:15





“In this world
you will have trouble.”

Jesus the Messiah (John 16:33)

Jesus was greatly loved by multitudes
of individuals, as were
his immediate and his later followers.

They were murdered nonetheless.

(213)

“He who hears my words and puts them into practice
is like a wise man...” Matthew 7:24

Trap #1 - Reputation

Freedom #1 - Secrecy

Trap #2 - Wealth

Freedom #2 - Generosity



“Count Your Blessings”

The Discipline of Secrecy will help us break the grip of human opinion over our souls and our actions.

(200)



Look Back to Chapter 5

The Kingdom Heart

We do not control outcomes and are not responsible for them, but only for our contribution to them.

By truly loving our adversary, we stand within the reality of God's Kingdom and resources, and it is very likely we will draw our adversary into it also. Things are really different there, and a resolution manifesting the divine presence becomes possible.

See what will happen. Venture on the Kingdom.

That is how we 'seek' it.



Chapter 5, p. 157

“Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and His righteousness.”

How do you seek the Kingdom of God?

Find out what God is doing - the Kingdom - and do that.

How do you find out what God is doing?

~ **Observe Jesus Christ.** Look at Him. Listen to what He said. Watch what He did. That's what God is doing. Now do that where you are and you will find the Kingdom of God and the kind of righteousness that God has. When you find that everything else you need will be provided.

Good night, what a statement that is!

~ **Look at the 23rd Psalm**

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack.”

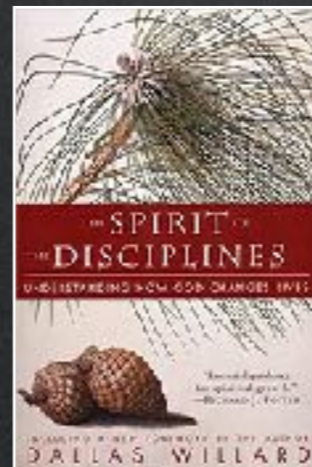
Same thing? Sure! Now we have a face on the Shepherd, a person to point to and say that's where you can find it... Jesus Christ. We can't just rest in the name. We have to move to the reality and the presence of the Kingdom.

The Key — Christlikeness

We cannot behave “on the spot” as He did and taught if in the rest of our time we live as everybody else does. The “on the spot” episodes are not the place where we can, even by the grace of God, redirect unchristlike but ingrained tendencies of action toward sudden Christlikeness.

Living the Sermon on the Mount is characteristic of Christlikeness...expected of a new kind of person, one who intelligently and steadfastly seeks, above all else, to live:

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33



Dallas Willard
The Spirit of the Disciplines, p. 7-8

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



Meditation – *John 5:36-44; Philippians 4:4-7*

Application

- 1.) Who am I trying to impress? Why do their opinions matter so much to me?
- 2.) What is one action through which I will practice the Discipline of Secrecy this week?
- 3.) What treasures uncover idols in my life? How can I fast from it/them in an easy, experimental way, ideally with joy? What is God revealing about trusting and treasuring His Kingdom?



Related Teaching by Dallas

“Jesus Teaching - Matthew 6”

[LINK: #12 \[08:00-29:40 - 16:35\]](#)

SOURCE: *“The Divine Conspiracy” Lectures*

Harvey Fellows Summer Institute - 2007

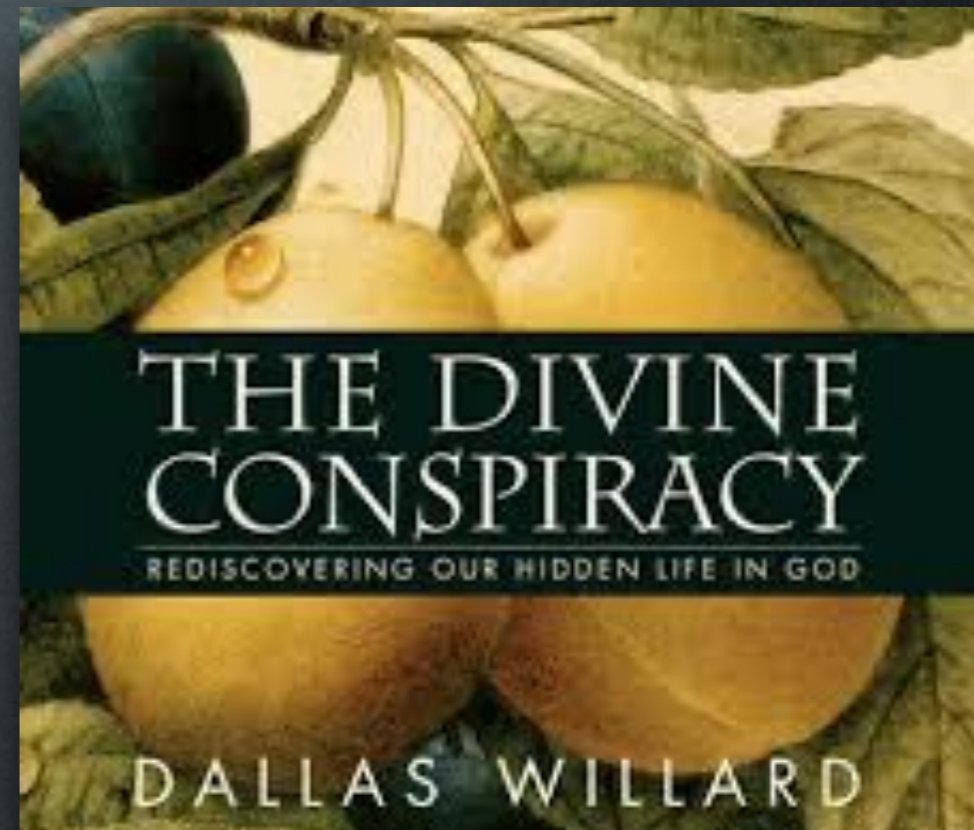
[LINK: Notes - Jesus College Library](#)



Session 4 Summary

“Trusting the Kingdom”

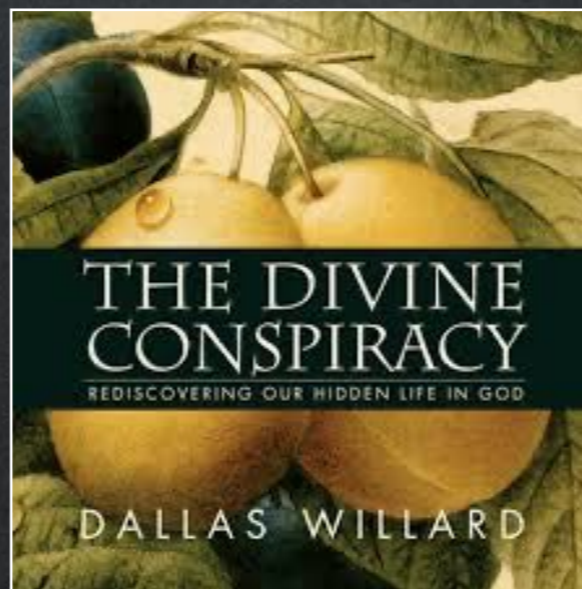
Life in the Kingdom among us leads us away from performing for others or finding security in wealth. In seeking God’s Kingdom first, we experience a Father who takes care of us and others through us.

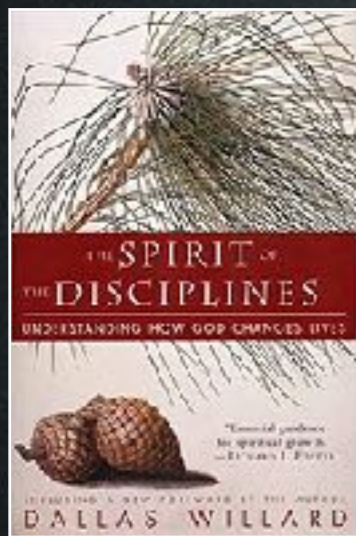


Next — Session 5

“A Community of Non-Condemnation”

Chapter 7 Readings: **215-217**; 221-222; 231-232;
239-242; **250**; 268-269





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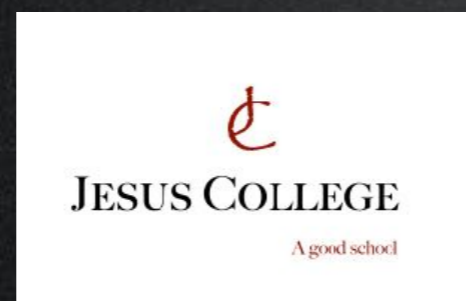
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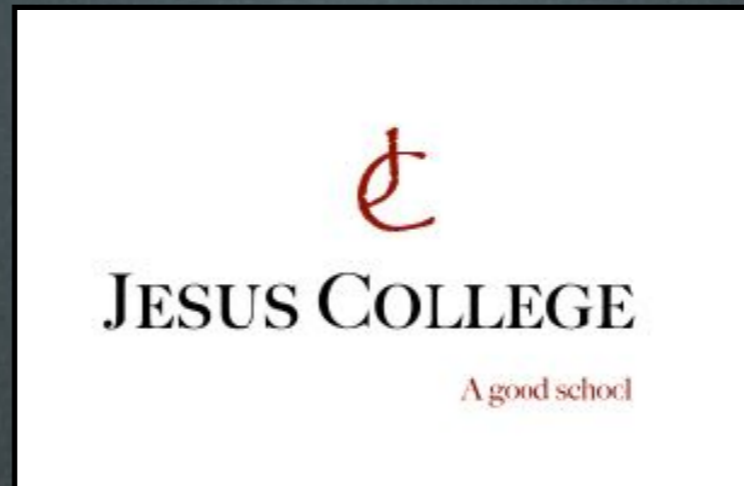
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