

*An Overview*

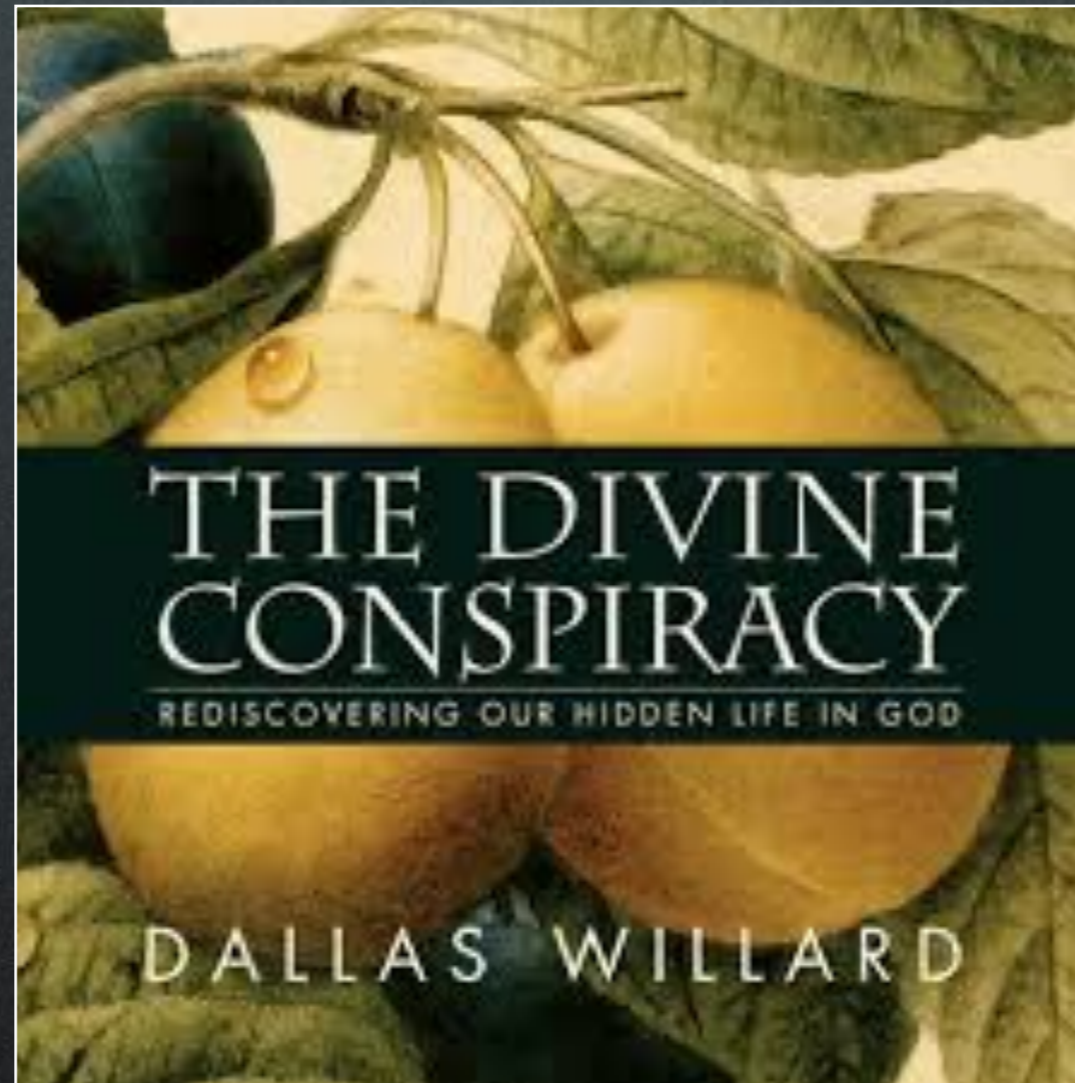
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# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY OVERVIEW

Session 2 - The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled  
Book Chapter 4



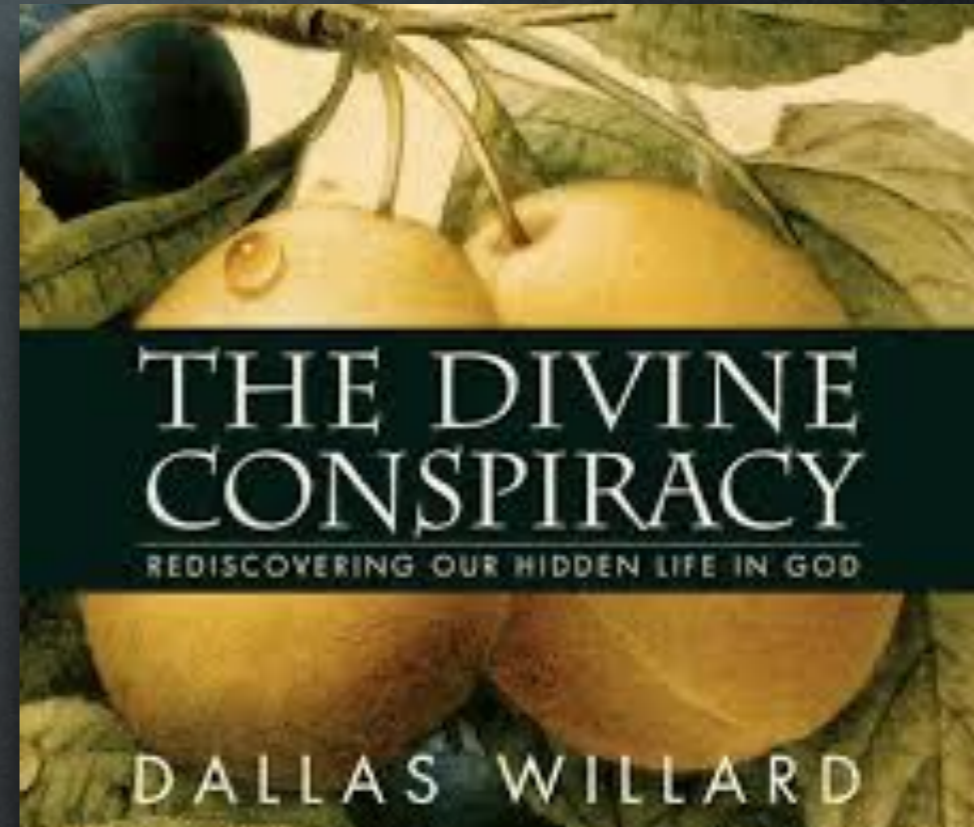
*An Overview*



## Session 1 Summary

### Book Chapters 1-3

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 through a daily apprenticeship in His Kingdom.









# What is the Gospel of Jesus?





## Session 2 Theme

*The Direct Availability of the Kingdom Among Us to All*

Matthew 5:3





# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY OVERVIEW

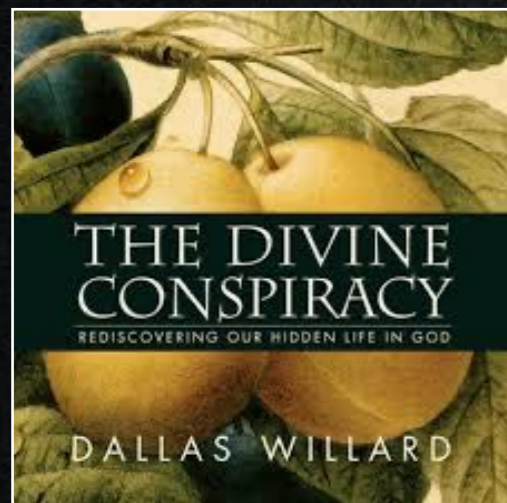
Session 2 - The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled  
Chapter 4 - Who is Really Well Off?

## Session 2 — Three Key Ideas

The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled

Jesus the Teacher - How & What & Why He Taught His Way

The Beatitudes - Their Purpose Made Personal





# “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...”



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."



# THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY OVERVIEW

Session 2 - The Beatitudes Un-Puzzled  
Chapter 4 - Who is Really Well Off?



## Key Idea #1 — The Puzzle of the Beatitudes

4M IQ #2 - Who is well off - living the good life?

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

Living the good life is living the Beatitudes - the highest expression of religious insight and moral inspiration.

*How are we to live in response to them?*

For many, they have proved to be a “pretty poison.”

*“I can never be like that.”*

(98-99)





In the midst of this mass of raw humanity,  
Jesus teaches his students or apprentices,  
along with all who hear about the meaning of

**the availability\* of the heavens.** (100)

\* His primary theme in this talk and in His life. (99)

*“The Kingdom Among Us” — 38 x’s in the book*

**Spiritual Zeros under Heaven’s Care — “First/Last”**

The poor in spirit are called ‘blessed’ by Jesus, not because they are in a meritorious condition, but because, precisely in spite of and in the midst of their ever so deplorable condition, the rule of the heavens has moved redemptively upon and through them by the grace of Christ. (102)

*“The Great Inversion of Human Ideas about Rank” (88, 90, 121, 178)*



“Whosoever will may come.”

Revelation 22:17b

“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Matthew 9:11





## **The Beatitudes - For Today or Not?**

They [Beatitudes] are explanations and illustrations, drawn from the immediate setting, of the present availability of the Kingdom through personal relationship to Jesus... in life circumstances that are beyond all hope.

The Beatitudes simply cannot be 'good news' if they are understood\* as a set of 'how-to's for achieving blessedness. They would only then amount to a new legalism. (106)

*They are announcements about the reality of the Kingdom of God.*

\*Demanding diligent, biblical, hermeneutical work!





## **Key Idea #2 – Jesus the Teacher**

*How, What & Why He Taught His Way*

**HOW** - Concrete method of teaching with parables & life. (107)

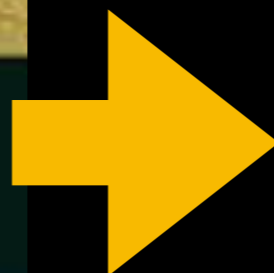
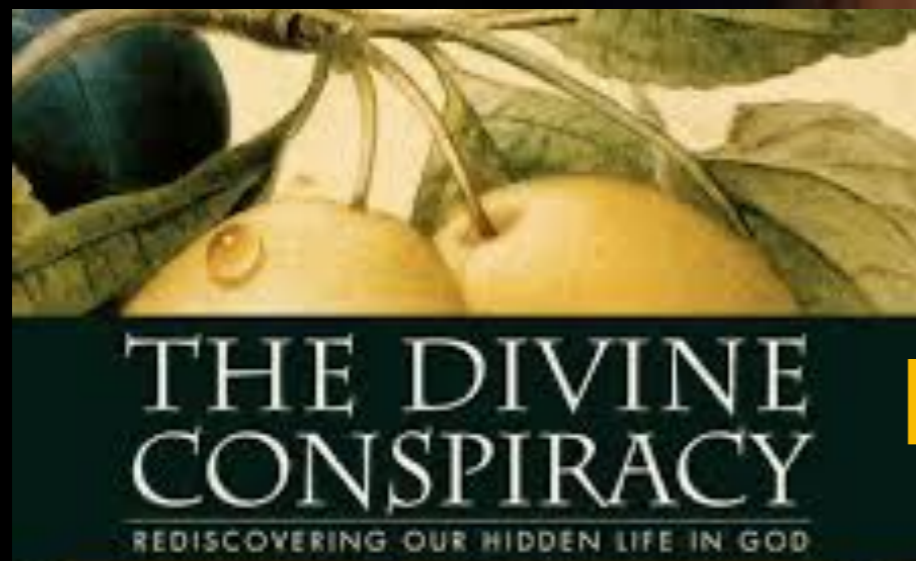
**WHAT** - Correct common assumptions of the situation at hand  
...to challenge our governing worldview. (107)

**WHY** - To speak words, to foster experiences that impact the active flow of the hearer's life. This is what Jesus did by the way he taught. He tied his teachings to concrete events that make up the hearers' lives.

*He aimed his sayings at their hearts and habits. (114)*

*“Did you hear what that man said?”*



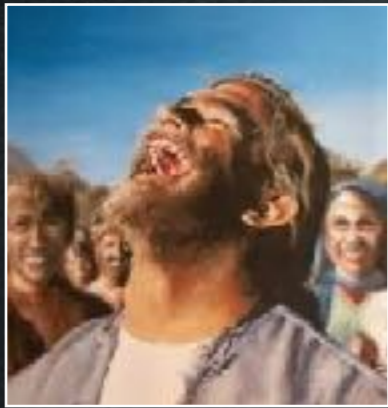


KINGDOM TECHNOLOGY\*

DALLAS WILLARD

\* Hermeneutical, Theological, Transformational Kingdom breakthrough





### **Idea #3 – Beatitudes Personalized Today**

Blessed are you for yours is the Kingdom...now!

*Who is on your list of “hopeless unblessables?” (122)*

The condition of life sought for by human beings through the ages is attained in the quietly transforming friendship of Jesus. (124)

The rule of God is available to all in Jesus Himself now loose in the world among us. (116)







Jesus took time in His teaching to point out the natural beauty of every human being. (123)

The personally condemned, silly teens & young adults, crushed, immoral - “God’s grubby people.” (123-125)

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





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



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



13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16





## **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

Matthew 5:17-20

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, 9, 13)

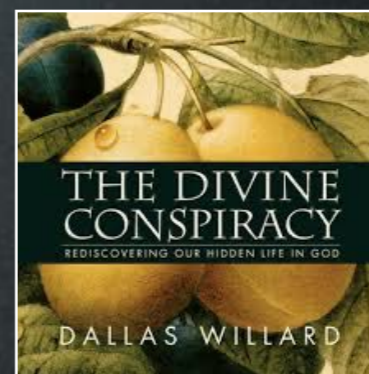
Jesus' proclamation clearly dumped them—the rich, educated, “well born”, popular, powerful—out of their privileged position and raised ordinary people with no human qualifications into the divine fellowship by faith in Jesus. (127)





In Matthew 5:20 and following [the 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. *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 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, “The Human Side of Holiness”  
“Life & Transformation” Session 14 @ 0:27:35



# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A





**Meditation** — *Matthew 5:1-13*

## **Application**

- 1.) How does my belief put me in a place to engineer my way into God's good graces?
- 2.) What about Jesus as a Teacher strikes me — what He said, how He said it, and/or why He said it?
- 3.) How am I cultivating my "quietly transforming friendship with Jesus"? (124)





## Related Teaching by Dallas

“The Beatitudes in Luke 6 &  
Jesus’ Way of Teaching”  
[#6 \[39:30-1:10:15 \(end of Session\)\]](#)

“The Puzzle of Beatitudes”  
[LINK: #7 \[0:00-10:25\]](#)

Matthew 5:13-16 - “Blessed Obedience as Salt & Light”  
[LINK: #10 \[30:35-42:50\]](#)

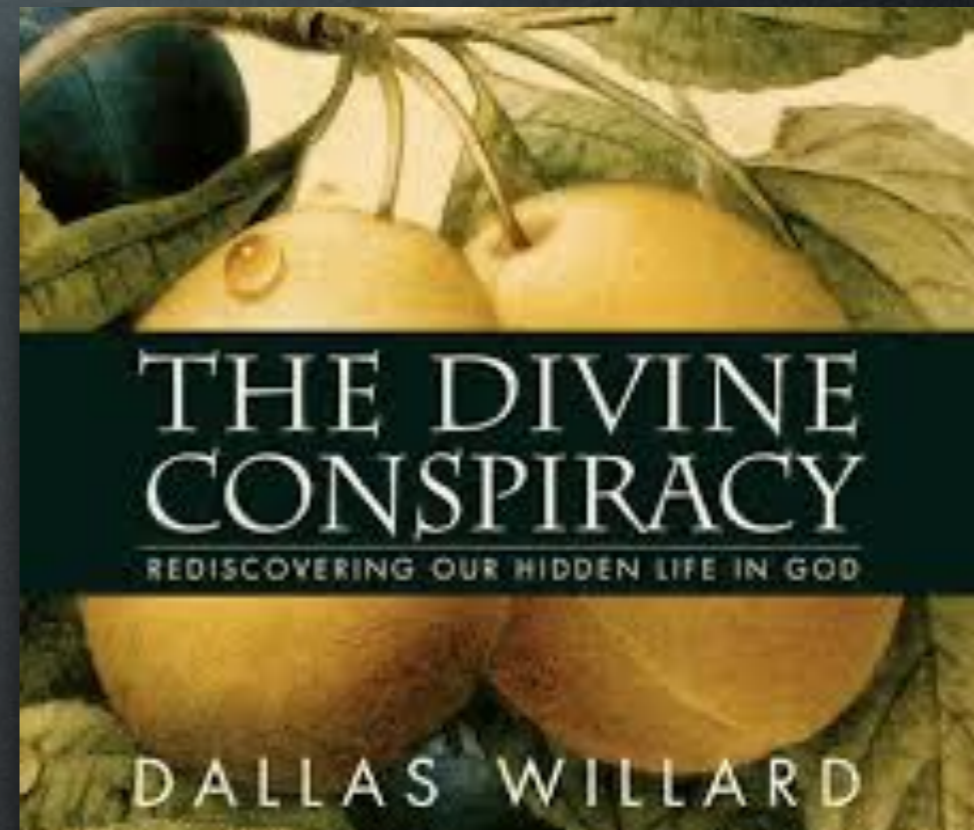
SOURCE: *“The Divine Conspiracy” Lectures*  
Harvey Fellows Summer Institute - 2007  
[LINK: Notes - Jesus College Library](#)





## Session 2 Summary

Jesus presents the Kingdom of God, even 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.





## **Next — Session 3**

### “Being Salt & Light Daily”

Chapter 5 Readings: 129-131; 134-135; 142-143;  
147-149; 158; 180-181; 183-185

*Invite fellow co-conspirators?*

Register — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com)

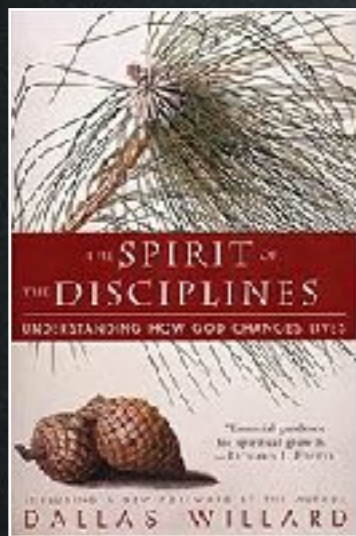


May the blessed availability of the Kingdom be obvious to you and through you to others in your next 10,000 minutes!

*Doug*







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