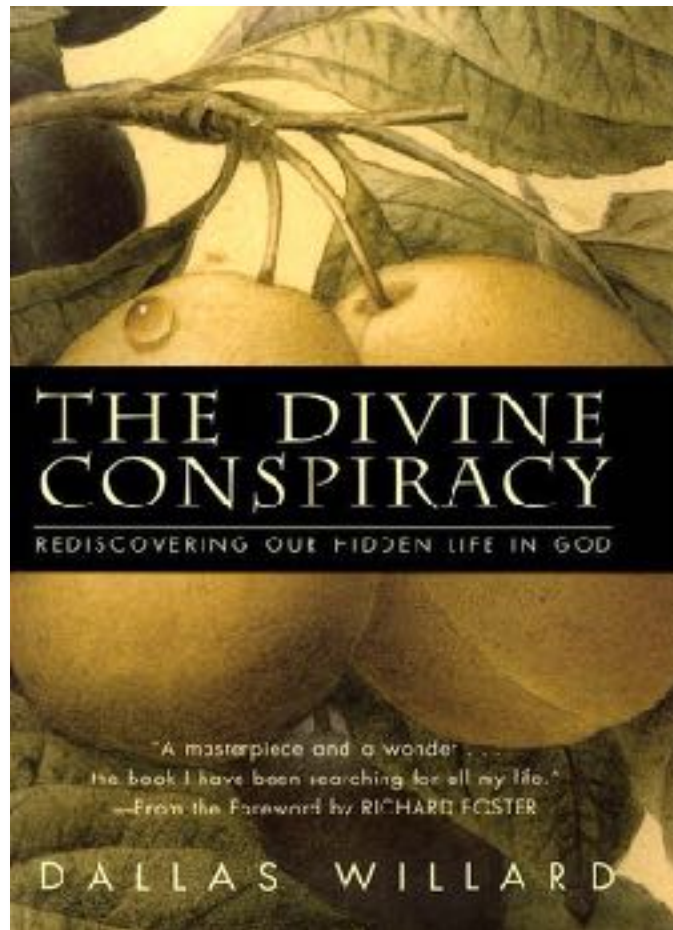


THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Study Guide



Offered free...all grace, no drachma...by [Jesus College](#)

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Three Suggested “V-I-M”** Participation Levels

ENJOY - *Peruse & Listen* — Overview the assigned chapter before each session then join the weekly webinar to enjoy the dialogue.

PARTICIPATE - *Read & Inquire* — Read the entire chapter before each session, take notes, and capture questions to bring to each session.

RECEIVE - *Discipline & Engage* — Invest making this Course not simply a free webinar added to your routine, but an intentional discipline in your spiritual growth journey. Ideally, invite a partner to journey with you to better learn, apply & grow. Level 3 steps can include:

1) READ the assigned section/chapter before each session. Capture notes in your book or electronically, reread the scriptures referenced, then review your notes again before the session.

2) INQUIRE - Bring questions to digest the content and engage the presenters & other students. Linger longer for the “Q&C” after each session.

3) VIEW - Complement reading with teachings from Dallas Willard’s 12 session series, “[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture Series](#)”. You will find 117 pages of notes from this series in the [Jesus College Library](#). Discover a growing library of teachings on the [Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube channel](#).

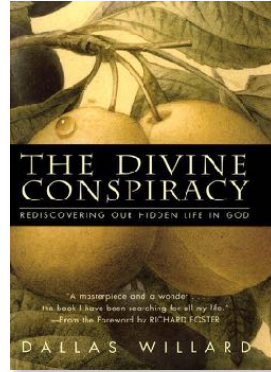
4) SOLITUDE - Invest solo time weekly spending an hour with Jesus discussing your key discovery from the week.

5) REFLECT - At the end of the Course, write yourself a letter or a journal entry summarizing the impact of the study.

[** V-I-M = *Vision-Intention-Means* — Dallas calls this the reliable pattern for spiritual change, really any change. As you envision a life of hearing God and truly intend to want to hear God, you will seek and find the means to practice a life of hearing God. For more on V-I-M, see *Renovation of the Heart*, chapter 5 ([Webinar on the book](#).) Another rich resource on V-I-M is in the [Life With God Bible](#) Introduction, xxv-xxxvi]

Course Schedule

Chap.	Pages	Sessions (31)
1	33	4
2	25	1.5
3	35	3.5
4	32	3
5	58	4
6	28	2
7	56	4
8	40	4
9	64	4
10	26	1



#	Pages**	Chapter	Theme	Related Videos
1.	1-13	1	Entering Eternal Life Now	DC*** #2 1:12:10-End
2.	13-21	1	Entering The Ordinary	DC #1 - 0:00-12:15
3.	21-28	1	Made to Rule	DC #2 - 50:00-1:10:15
4.	28-33	1	Many Kingdoms	DC #12 - 0:00-8:00
5.	35-55	2	The Invitation Diminished	DC #5 - 1:10:20-End
6.	55-66	2/3	Missing Teacher; What Jesus Knew: God Bathed World	DC #3 - 9:00-15:27
7.	66-78	3	Re-Visioning God, Heavens as Human Environment	DC #3 - 1:08:40-End
8.	79-91	3	All Things Visible; Death Dismissed; Which is Up?	DC #3 - 53:40-57:40
9.	91-95	3	Jesus as Master Intellect	DC #1 - 0:00-12:15
10.	97-106	4	Puzzle of Beatitudes	DC #7- 0:00-10:25
11.	107-114	4	Dealing with the Soul in Depth	DC #7 - 39:30-46:50
12.	114-127	4	What Jesus Had in Mind; Making The Message Personal	DC #10 - 30:35-42:50
13.	129-147	5	Master; Law & Soul	DC #7 - 10:25-16:35
14.	147-158	5	Anger & Contempt	DC #11 - 0-21:05-48:00
15.	158-173	5	Fantasized Desire, Adultery & Divorce	DC #11 48:00-1:08:00
16.	173-185	5	Transparent Words; Unquenchable Love; Love Enemies	DC#11-1:08:00-1:12:35
17.	187-202	6	Respectability Trap	DC #12 - 8:00-21:10
18.	203-214	6	Bondage of Wealth	DC #12 - 21:10-29:40
19.	215-227	7	No Condemnation	DC #12 - 29:40-41:00
20.	228-239	7	When Good Things Be Deadly&Request as Community	DC #12 - 41:00-48:45
21.	239-253	7	Prayer	DC#12 - 57:30-1:16:00
22.	253-269	7	The Lord's Prayer	DC#12-1:16:00-1:19:15
23.	271-281	8	Our Teacher	DC #10 - 6:50-20:20
24.	281-291	8	How to Be & Become a Disciple	Discipleship.at Work
25.	291-299	8	Become a Disciple	DC #5 - 24:25-38:05
26.	299-310	8	Help Others Become Disciples	DC #5 - 45:40-1:00:40
27.	311-320	9	The Master Class	#9 1:05:00-1:12:00:00
28.	320-341	9	Clear Objectives & Enthralling Mind with God	"Grace & Discipleship"
29.	341-352	9	Acquiring Habits of Goodness	DC #9 Intro #8 -15:10-18:20
30.	352-373	9	Disciplines; Steps & Church Life	DC#11-1:00:50-1:08:00
31.	375-394	10	Restoration of All	DC #4- 1:23:45-1:27:50

** - Pages in the Study Guide are from the hardback edition

*** - DC = ["The Divine Conspiracy" series, Harvey Fellows 2007 Summer Institute](#)



[Dallas' Granddaughter Larissa's Eulogy for Dallas](#)



CHAPTER 1 - "Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now"

Session 1 - pages 1-13

At the heart of all great movements is a recovery of a simple Christology.
Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*

Two Visions, Two Destinies: Temporal & Eternal

Matthew 7:25 - A Rock House Rev. 22:5 - A King's Reign

The Confusion *Life in the Dark* Mt. 4:12-16

* Lost flying upside down - "*Our profound upside-down-ness*" (9)

"There is now no recognized moral knowledge upon which projects of fostering moral development could be based." (3) "The mantle of intellectual meaninglessness shrouds every aspect of our common life." (9)

The Invitation - *Word from a Different Reality* (Life Question #1) Mt. 4:17

"Yet in the gloom a glimmer glows. We are invited to make a pilgrimage - into the heart and life of God." ~ "God's desire for us is that we should live in Him. He sends among us the Way to Himself. That shows what, in His heart of hearts, God is really like - indeed, what reality is really like." ~ "Millions more have heard about this Way, and even insist upon its rightness, humanity for the most part still lives in a 'far country'. The Way we speak of is Jesus." (11)

"Jesus stands quietly at the center of the contemporary world, as He Himself predicted. He so graced the ugly instrument on which He died that the cross has become the most widely exhibited and recognized symbol on earth." (12)

A World Historical Force (12-13) John 10:9-10 & 1:4

"Jesus offers Himself as God's doorway into the life that is truly life. Confidence in Him leads us today to become **His Apprentices** in eternal living. Does Jesus only enable me to 'make the cut' when I die? It is good to know that when I die all will be well, but is there any good news for life?"

"Jesus' enduring relevance is based on His historically proven ability to speak to, to heal and empower the individual human condition. He matters because of what He brought and what He still brings to ordinary human beings, living their ordinary lives, and coping daily with their surroundings. He promises wholeness for their lives. In sharing our weakness He gives us strength and imparts through His companionship a life that has the quality of eternity. He comes where we are, and He brings us the life we hunger for." (13)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #2 @ 1:12:10-End](#)

Next Session — p. 13-21 (pages from the hardback) *Entering the Ordinary*

Meditation & Application Colossians 1:15-17; 2:1-3; 9-10

1. Is Jesus a sufficient guide and mentor in my daily life such as money, love, business, housing? Does He really have all "wisdom and knowledge"? (2:3)
2. What sound bites, secular sources or slogans have become a way of life for me?
3. What strikes me when I read about Jesus "Entering the Ordinary" (p.13-14)?

CHAPTER 1 - "Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now" (continued)

Session 2 - pages 13-21

Entering the Ordinary: *The Divine Conspiracy* - The Incarnation Phil. 2:5-9

"If he were to come today, as he did then, he could carry out his mission through most any decent and useful occupation." (14)

The Habitation of the Eternal Colossians 3:1-4

"The obvious, well kept secret of the 'ordinary' is that it is made to be a receptacle of the divine, a place where the life of God flows." (14) "We are built to count." (15)

God's Kingdom Opened to All (15-17) Matthew 4:23-25

"The rule of God is now accessible to everyone." (15) "...taking our life into His." (16)
"They were only responding to the striking availability of God to meet present human need through the actions of Jesus. He simply was the good news about the Kingdom. He still is."

Proprieties Aside (17-19) Luke 16:16

"Personal need and confidence in Jesus permits any person to blunder into God's realm."

The Presence of God in Action (19-20) Matthew 7:29

"He [Jesus] was himself the evidence for the truth of his announcement about the availability of God's kingdom, or governance, to ordinary human existence." (20)

God's Rule Extended Onward Through Us (20-21) Colossians 1:15

"And this **governance** is projected onward through those who receive him. When we receive God's gift of life by relying on Christ, we find that God comes to act with us as we rely on him in our actions." (20) "Turning the Tin Soldier into a live man." CS Lewis, {M.C. p. 179} (20)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #1 @ 0:00-12:15](#)

Next Session — p.21-28

Made to Rule

Meditation & Application Philippians 2:5-9

1. Is Jesus real in my ordinary life beyond forgiveness of sins past & security of eternity future?
2. Is there a difference between an Apprentice of the Master and a Christian?
3. What does God's **governance** over my life mean to me? (A major theme in the book)
4. Meditate on Jesus in Phil. 2:5-9. Is He more than my Savior? Is He also my life mentor?

CHAPTER 1 - "Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now" (continued)

Session 3 - pages 21-28

Made to Rule

What a Kingdom Is (21-22)

“Every last one of us has a “kingdom” - or a “queendom” or a “government” - a realm that is uniquely our own, where our choice determines what happens. Our kingdom is simply the range of our effective will. What we genuinely have a say over is within our kingdom.” (21)

God's "Creation Covenant" with Human Beings" (22-23) **Genesis 1:28-30**

“The Human Job Description - The Creation Covenant” - God assigned to us collectively the rule over all living things on earth. We are meant to exercise our rule only with God. We are meant to exercise our rule only in union with God. He intended to be our constant companion or co-worker in the creative enterprise of life on earth.” (22)

Redemption of Our Rule (23-24)

“At every moment of our lives we live in the interface between our lives and God’s kingdom among us.” (24)

Our Rule Extended into Eternity (24-25) **Matthew 25:34**

“When we submit what and where we are to God, our rule or dominion then increases. “I will put you in charge of many things. Share the larger direction or governance of things for good.” (24)

“As we learn through increasing trust to **govern** our tiny affairs with him, the kingdom he had all along planned for us will be turned over to us, at the appropriate time.” (25)

God's Kingdom (25-27) **Psalms 145-150**

“The person of God Himself and the action of His will are the organizing principles of His Kingdom.” (25) “Thy Kingdom come...pray for it to take over all points...” (26)

The Kingdom is Now "at Hand" (27-28) **Matthew 4:17**

“The eternal kind of life now available to us within the ever-present governance of God...Caught up in His active rule, our deeds become an element in God’s eternal history. (27)

Jesus came among us to show and teach the life for which we were made. He came very gently, opened access to the governance of God with Him, and set a foot a conspiracy of freedom in truth among human beings.” (27)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #2 @ 50:00-1:10:15](#)

Next Session — p. 28-33

In the Midst of Many Kingdoms

Meditation & Application

Read Psalms 145-150

1. What is the range of my Kingdom? How aware am I that I have a Kingdom I govern?
2. What is the human job description and how ready am I today to take my part ruling with Jesus?
3. What are 2 or 3 areas of you have not trusted Jesus to lead. Consider a spoken or written time of prayer with Jesus discussing these areas specifically asking for His Kingdom control and guidance.

CHAPTER 1 - "Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now" (continued)
Session 4 - pages 28-33

In the Midst of Many Kingdoms

We Become Bearers of God's Rule "At Hand" 28-29 Luke 10:9
"Divine co-rule was to be true for Jesus trainees, or apprentices." (29)

But Other Kingdoms Remain (29-30)

"...trying to run their own show" (29)

"...the 'interior castle' has many rooms that are slowly occupied by God." (30)

Electricity is "at Hand" (30-31)

"...the electricity has now become available. 'The Kingdom Among Us'." (31)

"The Kingdom has been here as long as we humans have been here, and longer. But it has been available to us through simple confidence in Jesus, the Anointed, only from the time He became a public figure." (31)

Two Who Called (31-33) Inspiring "Kingdom" stories of Gary Smith & David Paul Cho

Chapter One Summary

"Jesus offers Himself as God's doorway into the **life that is truly life**. Confidence in Him leads us today to become His **Apprentices** in eternal living." (13)

"Every last one of us has a "kingdom" - or a "queendom" or a "government" - a realm that is uniquely our own, where our choice determines what happens. Our kingdom is simply the range of our effective will. What we genuinely have a say over is **within our kingdom**." (21)

"The invitation to come out of the darkness into the light makes no sense to many. The eternal kind of life now available to us within the ever-present governance of God...Caught up in His active rule, our deeds become an element in God's eternal history."

"Jesus came among us to show and teach the life for which we were made. He came very gently, opened access to the governance of God with Him, and set a foot a conspiracy of freedom in truth among human beings." (27)

"Humanity remains His project, not its own, and His initiatives are always at work among us. He certainly 'gives us space'." (33)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 0:00-8:00](#)

Next Session — p. 35–55

The Invitation Diminished - The Gospel Gap

Meditation & Application

Read Psalm 23 with a "Kingdom" mindset

1. Is the Kingdom of the Heavens something I am "going to" or "entering in"?
2. How does my day to day life differ living in the Kingdom vs. running my own empire?
3. What inspiration do you draw from the stories of Gary Smith & David Paul Cho?
4. Do an honest "Kingdom" inventory. Place your kingdom control items on the left and God's Kingdom control items on the right. Ask yourself what can you do to re-balance the ledger.

CHAPTER 2 - "The Gospel of Sin Management"

Session 5 - pages 35-55

"I came that you might have life abundantly."

Jesus the Master Life Coach

The Invitation Diminished (35-42)

A. The Promotion - Christians are not perfect, just forgiven

* Bar Code Faith - *"All paid at once" or "pay as you go"?*

"Grace is cheap for those who need it" (37)

B. The Product - Is my faith more than "Fire Insurance" & "Life Insurance"?

Is it more than "Management of Sin"? (38)

"Are we eating what we are selling? What we are selling is irrelevant to our real existence and without power over daily life." Helmut Thielicke, Pastor, WWII Germany (39)

C. The Problem - *"A coherent framework of knowledge and practical direction adequate to personal transformation toward the abundance and obedience emphasized in the New Testament, with a corresponding redemption of ordinary life."* (41)

The Gospel on the Right (42-50)

"Forgiveness of individual's sins" (41) "Between you and the Lord...only the scanner will know."

(43) *"Saved is a legal condition rather than vital reality."* (47)

Solving the Sin obstacle to enter Heaven; Christian Living is separate from Salvation

?) Is Jesus more than a source of a Heavenly Back Stage Pass?

The Gospel on the Left (50-55) - "Removal of social or structural evils" (41)

The Gospel Gap - "Disconnection of personal integrity to Christlikeness" (54)

I John 5:11-12 - Trust Jesus or trust the work of Jesus? Transaction or Transformation?

"Arrangement to get us into Heaven or availability to get life in the Kingdom now?" (49)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lectures #5 @ 1:10:20-End](#)

Next Session — Ch. 2 p. 55-59 - *Life as a Branch* Ch. 3 p. 61-66 - *God's Joyous Being*

Meditation & Application

John 17:3

1. What do I think it means to become a Christian and what does that buy?
2. Are forgiveness & Heaven the "target" or the "byproduct" of life in the Kingdom?
3. Is there a gap between what I believe (salvation) and who I am (discipleship)?
4. Am I experiencing Eternal life, abundant life in Jesus right now? If not, why?
5. Meditate on John 17:3 to hear the Son before His Father. What is revealed about eternal life?

CHAPTER 2 - "The Gospel of Sin Management" (continued)
Session 6 - *Part One*: Ch. 2 pages 55-59 *Part Two*: Ch. 3 pages 61-66

Learning life as a branch - John 15

The Case of the Missing Teacher - "Wisdom not information" (55) "We don't look to Jesus as wise teacher so we don't see ourselves as His students/disciples." (57)

The disappearance of Jesus as teacher explains why today in Christian churches little effort is made to teach people to do what He did and taught. We do not seriously consider Jesus as our teacher on how to live, hence we can not think of ourselves, in our moment-to-moment existence, as His students or disciples.

The absence from our churches of Jesus as teacher... is largely caused and sustained by the basic message that we constantly hear from Christian pulpits - "gospels of sin management". Jesus invitation to eternal life now - right in the middle of work business, and profession - remains for the most part ignored and unspoken. (57)

The resources of God's kingdom remain detached from human life. There is no gospel for human life and Christian discipleship, just one for death or one for social action. To counteract this we must develop a straightforward presentation, in word and life, of the reality of life now under God's rule, through reliance upon the word and person of Jesus. In this way we can naturally become His students or apprentices. **We can learn from Him how to live our lives as He would live them if He were we. We can enter His eternal kind of life now.**" (58)



[The Genius of Jesus](#) - A Jesus College Course based on two Dallas Willard teachings

CHAPTER 3 - "What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World" (p. 61-66)

God's Joyous Being (62-64)

"Jesus good news about the kingdom can be an effective guide for my life only if I share His view of the world. It's a world filled with a glorious reality, where every component is in God's direct knowledge and control. It's a world inconceivably beautiful and good because of God and because He's always in it...where's He's continually at play and over which He constantly rejoices. **Until my thoughts of God have found every visible thing and event glorious in His presence, the words of Jesus have not yet fully seized me.**" (61-62)

Finding Language to Express This Great God (64-66)

"It is, frankly, hard today to think adequately of God, or perhaps to think of Him at all." (64)

"To trust in God, we need a rich and accurate way of thinking about Him to support our life vision and will." (65)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #3 @ 9:00-15:27](#)

Next Session — p. 66-78

The Heavens Here & God in Space

Meditation & Application

John 15:1-11

1. Who is the most intelligent person in the world?
2. What capacity does Jesus have to consult with you in my daily life? Profession? \$?
3. Do I agree apart from Jesus, I can do nothing? If I do nothing, it will be without Jesus.
4. Is my life safe? Is the world beautiful? Is "joy" possible?
5. When will I take a walk in the next week to talk with Jesus about His amazing God's creation?

CHAPTER 3 - "What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World" (continued)

Session 7 - Chapter 3 pages 66-78

"Don't Worry, Be Happy" - Matthew 6:25-34

The Heavens as the Human Environment

"With this magnificent God positioned among us, Jesus brings the assurance that our universe is a perfectly safe place for us to be." (66)

The Heavens Are Also Here (67-68) *"The Kingdom Among Us"* (Used 31 times)

* Old Testament Encounters - "God & his spiritual agents act here and are constantly available here." (69)

* New Testament Encounters - "Immanuel - the strongest possible impression of the reality and immediate presence of the Kingdom of Christ." (70)

Mistranslated - "Sky...Air...Heaven." "Heaven is strictly out of sight for us."

"Located far away and much later" - "we should then be surprised to feel alone?" (71)

The Experience Continues Today (71-73)

"Blessed are those who believe without seeing" Jesus to Thomas

"The most important things in our human lives are nearly always invisible." (72)

"The nearness of God is so largely lost to the contemporary mind." (73)

Space Inhabited by God (74-78)

"If we are to make sense of Jesus' teaching and practice of the Kingdom of the heavens, we must understand what spirit and the spiritual are and how they are in space." (74)

The Human Spirit - "I am a spiritual being who currently has a physical body." (75)

* Eyes, Hands & Face - where the spiritual reality of the person become present to others." (76)

"God relates to space as we do to our body" (76) - 2 Corinthians 4:6

"Love wants to be known." (76) "Persons rarely become present where they are not heartily wanted.

Seeing God comes through a process of seeking and growing in intimacy with Him." (77)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #3 @ 1:08:40-1:13:14

["God and His Kingdom"](#)

Next Session — p. 79-91 *All Things Visible and Invisible & Death Dismissed*

Meditation & Application

Matthew 5:6 & 6:33

1. "But do we believe this?" (67) What 7-10 qualities define for me the nature of God?
2. How does my view of the proximity of God in space impact my prayer life?
3. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being highest, how much do I want to know Jesus?
4. Is there a difference between a believer who knows and a follower who sees?

CHAPTER 3 - "What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World" (continued)
Session 8 - pages 79-91

"To fill your mind with the Spirit is life and peace" - Romans 8:6

All Things Visible and Invisible (79-84) John 5:26

*** The Spiritual Reality (79-80) - The Spirit/Will is Central (80-81) & Substantial (81-82)**

"The problem of how God is present around us in space and what 'the Kingdom of the Heavens' is." (79)
Spiritual is not something we ought to be, it is something we are. (79)

- "Airplanes do not grow on trees." (80) "Valuing + Choosing + Acting = Will" (80)

"The will, or heart, is the executive center of the self. Self-determination; Creativity; Freedom" (80)

"The heart, or will, simply is spirit in human beings. It is the human spirit, and the only thing in us that God will accept as the basis of our relationship to him. It is the spiritual plane of our natural existence, the place of truth before God, from where alone our whole lives can become eternal."

"Spirit is un-bodily personal power" (81) "This is how Jesus sees our world. It is part of His gospel." (82)

*** The Struggle (82-83) - "Hopeless, frantic, despairing. 'Doors in the Wall'." (82)**

*** The Solution - The "Mind of the Spirit" (83-84)**

"Jesus brings us into a world without fear. In his world, astonishingly, there is nothing evil we must do in order to thrive. He lived, and invites us to live, in an undying world where it is safe to do and be good." (84)

Death Dismissed (84-88) II Timothy 1:10; John 8:51-52; 11:26

Careless About...(84-85) Never Tasting... (85-86) Moving Out of Our Tent (86-88)

"Those who love and are loved by God are not allowed to cease to exist, because they are God's treasures." (84)

"Jesus show his apprentices how to live in the light of the fact that they will never stop living."

"We are never ceasing spiritual beings with an eternal destiny..." (86)

"Jesus lived and taught in full view of the Heavens opened." "Kingdom Among Us" (88)

Which Side Really is Up? (88-91)

"The Great Inversion" - "All models of human hopelessness are fruitful and secure in God's view." (89)

"As it is in the Heavens" "Disciple of Jesus - to accept now that inversion" (90)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lectures #3 @ 9:00-15:27](#)

Next Session — pages 91-95

Jesus Master of Intellect

Meditation & Application

Romans 8:1-6

1. Do I resist or embrace life in the great inversion where I can live in Heaven on Earth daily?
2. How do I "live by my competencies?" (91)
3. How is my "soul soaked with secularity"? (91) What will soak my soul in the Spirit?

CHAPTER 3 - "What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World" (final)
Session 9 - pages 91-95

“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:16-17

Jesus Master of Intellect (91-95)

The Growing Wave of Unfaith (91-93)

“The outlook of Jesus lost its standing as an intellectual option.” (92)

“Set aside Jesus’ plain statements about the reality and total relevance of the Kingdom of God.” (92)

The Smartest Man in the World (93-94) (See 55-57) Colossians 2:3

“Our commitment to Jesus can stand on the no other foundation than a recognition that He is the one who knows the truth about our lives and our universe. It is not possible to trust Jesus in matters where we do not believe him to be competent.” (94)

~ The Master architect and carpenter teaches us to build a rock house. (Webster)

(See John 13:13, 14:2; Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 7:24)



“The Genius of Jesus” - Dallas Willard, Ohio State University [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

Master of Molecules (94-95)

“He could create matter from the energy he knew how to access from ‘the heavens’ right where he was.” (95)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #1](#) @ 0:00-12:15

Next Session — p. 97-106 *Puzzle of Beatitudes*

Meditation & Application

Colossians 1:15-20; Mark 10:51

1. Who is the most intelligent person to ever live?
2. Honestly, in what areas do I not seek the wisdom of Jesus because I don’t consider his competency in the specific area? Finances? Work? Parenting? Hobbies? Home Improvement?
3. What must I do to “enroll with serious intent in Jesus’ school of life”? (93)
4. To me, Jesus is the ultimate “scientist, craftsman, artist” (94) and... (name 3-7 qualities)

CHAPTER 4 - "Who is Really Well Off? The Beatitudes"

Session 10 - pages 97-106

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of the Heavens." Matthew 5:3

Puzzle of Beatitudes (97-106)

QUESTION #2 of Life's Four Great Questions...

Q - What is the good life? A - 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* (98)

How do we live the Beatitudes?

Not Guilt. Not the Goal. His basic message - acting with God's rule from the Heavens (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)

The Kingdom Among Us

Spiritual Zeros under Heaven's Care (100-102) Matthew 4:19-23

"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)

Staying in Charge (102-103)

"Propriety" - Trying to engineer our way into the Kingdom - to secure blessedness (103)

"If not salvation by works, then possibly salvation by attitude."

What about those not on the list? - If you are not on the list, you're not in the Kingdom (104)

"Seek to become poor, sad, persecuted...but very few actually do this." (104)

Surely this is not what Jesus had in mind when He taught this!

Conclusion - 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)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lectures #7 @ 0:00-10:25](#)

Next Session — p. 107-114 *Dealing with the Soul in Depth*

Meditation & Application

Matthew 5:1-13

1. Do Jesus' teachings of the Beatitudes apply today?
2. How does my belief put me in a place to engineer my way into God's good graces?
3. Do I have a "list mentality" to earn eternity and do I try to sell my list to others as a proprietary controller of the "goods"?

CHAPTER 4 - "Who is Really Well Off? The Beatitudes" (continued)

Session 11 - pages 107-114

Dealing with the Soul in Depth (107-114)

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

How - "Jesus teaches contextually and concretely, from the immediate surroundings, if possible, or at least from events of ordinary life. This is seen in his well known use of the parable."

"His use of concreteness in teaching takes yet another form...he corrects a general assumption or practice thought to govern the situation at hand. He shows the general assumption or practice to be an unreliable guide to life under God." (107)

What - Correct Prevailing Assumptions - *to Challenge Your World View*

A Kingdom governed life is a right way to live a good life.

* Rich Young Ruler - Mark 10

* A Kingdom Dinner Party - Luke 14

* The Good Samaritan - Luke 10

How to make a neighbor - "The condition of our hearts will determine who along our path turns out to be our neighbor, and our faith in God will largely determine whom we have strength enough to make our neighbor." (111)

Why - "We automatically remember what makes a real difference in our life. The secret of the great teacher is to speak words, to foster experiences, that impact the active flow of the hearer's life. This 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 as these were revealed in their daily lives."

"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 the won't have to write it down to hold onto it." (114)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #7 @ 0:00 - 10:25

["Kingdom Goodness in the Whole Self"](#)

Next Session — p. 114-127 *What Jesus Had in Mind & Making the Message Personal*

Meditation & Application

Matthew 5:1-13

1. What about Jesus as a Teacher strikes me - what he said, how he said it, why he said it?
2. How well do I show in my love for my neighbor that the words of Jesus have fully seized me?
3. How will I practice this week what I am learning to love my neighbor?

CHAPTER 4 - "Who is Really Well Off? The Beatitudes" (continued)

Session 12 - pages 114-127

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

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

"4 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)

Beatitude under the Personal Ministry of Jesus (119-122)

"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)

1. A Visit Back Home (Luke 4:18-19)
2. An Incarcerated Cousin (Matthew 11:4-6)

"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. The Great Inversion." (121) "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)

Making the Message Personal (pages 122-127)

"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." (123)

For the personally condemned, the crushed, the immoral - "God's grubby people" (125)

"Blessed! Blessed! Blessed! As they flee into the of the Kingdom Among Us."

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)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #10 @ 30:35-42:50](#)

Next Session - p. 129-147 *Master of Moral Understanding; The Law & The Soul*

Meditation & Application **Luke 6:17-26**

1. Who specifically is on your list of hopeless blessables?
2. How does your "thinking has to be rearranged" (121) to understand the way of the Kingdom?
3. How are you cultivating your "quietly transforming friendship with Jesus"? (124)

**CHAPTER 5 - "The Rightness of The Kingdom Heart:
Beyond the Goodness of Scribes & Pharisees"**

Session 13 - pages 129-147

QUESTION #3 of Life's Four Great Questions...

Q - "Who is a good person?" A - "He who is living in Agape love."

"The good person, from the good treasured up in his heart, produces what is good." Jesus

Master of Moral Understanding (129-139)

"He actually knows how to enable people to be good...a heartfelt love toward all...not acts and projects, but a pervasive condition of vision, joy and love in which we habitually reside...the same quality of God's love...perfect as our Father in the heavens is perfect." (129-130)

Talk on the Hill

Masterful unity of the Sermon not laws, otherwise, Jesus is "meaner than Moses"

"Repent, for life in the Kingdom of the heavens is now one of your options." (133)

Teacher on the Hill "Brilliance of Jesus" (134 and 55, 93-95)

"In our culture, Jesus is automatically disassociated from brilliance or intellectual capacity. Would you be able to trust your life to such a person...be inclined to become His student?" (134)

"Picture of a Kingdom heart" (137, 143) "A progression toward a life of agape love." (139)

The Law and The Soul (139-147)

Matthew 5:17-20 Righteousness = "True Inner Goodness" (145)

Goodness = the *Source* (the Heart) of rightness not the *Course* (the Law) of rightness

Lessons from a Dishwasher (Matthew 23:25-26) and a Farmer (Luke 6:43-45)

"Do we really believe what Jesus said is for us to do, we can do and should do? The overwhelming sense is we don't need to do it and probably can't." Dallas Willard

"The only proper response to this word which Jesus brings with him from eternity is simply to do it." Dietrich Bonhoeffer



The Divine Conspiracy Lectures - "*A person interacting with the Kingdom*"

[#7 @ 10:25-25:25](#) [#10 @ 6:50-22:05](#)

Next Session - Ch. 5 p. 147-158 *Anger & Contempt*

Meditation & Application **Luke 6:43-45**

1. What does it mean to say, "He is a good man; She is a good woman"??
2. Do I want to do what Jesus commanded? Honestly, do I think I can?
3. What am I working on currently with Jesus by His grace to do what He said?

**CHAPTER 5 - "The Rightness of The Kingdom Heart:
Beyond the Goodness of Scribes & Pharisees" (continued)**
Session 14 - pages 147-158

Six Areas of Life: #1 - "In the Caldron of Anger & Contempt" - Matthew 5:21-26

Anger

"Jesus understanding of them [anger & contempt] and their role in life becomes the basis for His strategy for establishing Kingdom goodness. It is the elimination of anger and contempt that He presents as the first and fundamental step toward the rightness of the Kingdom heart." (147)

1. *"Spontaneously arises when our will is obstructed"*

Anger - "a feeling...toward interfering with, and possibly even harming, those who have thwarted our will and interfered with our life." "The preliminary function of anger in life is to alert me to an obstruction to my will." (147)

2. *"It includes a will to harm them"*

"We know that people who are angry at us will our harm." "Some degree of malice is contained in every degree of anger. That is why it always hurts us when someone is angry at us." (148)

3. *"We choose or will to be angry"*

"We can actively receive it and decide to indulge it, and we usually do. We may even become an angry person...rage in constant readiness." (148) "Find a person who has embraced anger and you find a person with a wounded ego - the importance of the self." (149)

"There is nothing that can be done with anger than cannot be done better without it." (151)

Contempt

"Worse than anger." "Contempt makes it easier for us to hurt them or see them further degraded." (151) Contempt means to *Exclude - Push away - Leave out - Isolate*

"Contemptuous actions and attitudes are a knife in the heart that permanently harms and mutilates people's souls." (152) "Contempt spits on this pathetically deep need [to belong]." (153) "You fool!" - Combines all that is evil in anger and contempt" (154)

Prohibitions not Laws

"Jesus is working, at the much deeper level of the source of actions - good and bad." "No one can be right in the Kingdom sense who is not transformed at this level." "I treasure those around me and see them as God's creatures designed for His eternal purposes." "Graceful relationship sustained with the masterful Christ certainly can [reach the heart]." (155)

Kingdom Living

"We do not control outcomes and are not responsible for them, but only for our contribution to them." "Venture on the Kingdom. That is how we 'seek' it." (157) "Standing in the Kingdom, we make responsible decisions in love, with assurance that how things turn out for us does not really matter that much because, in any case, we are in the Kingdom of the Heavens...nothing that can happen to us is the 'end of the world'." (158)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lectures #11 @ 0:00-21:05](#)

Next Session - p. 158-173 *Fantasized Desire, Adultery & Divorce*

Meditation & Application

1. Honestly, how angry am I? How conditioned are my body, my mouth, my spirit to be angry?
2. For whom do I have contempt? An individual, a race, a position, a group.
3. How does the height of my anger reveal the shallowness of my view of the Kingdom?
4. What am I doing to "sustain a graceful relationship with Jesus"? (155)

**CHAPTER 5 - "The Rightness of The Kingdom Heart:
Beyond the Goodness of Scribes & Pharisees"**

Session 15 - pages 158-173

**Six Areas of Life: #'s 2-4 - "Lust, Adultery & Divorce" - Matthew 5:27-32
*Destructiveness of Fantasized Desire***

The Wise Master Teacher Jesus - "Pull content and unrestrained anger out of human life...rid it of by far the greater part of wrong acts that actually get carried out." (159)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #11 @ 48:00-53:00 - [What is Lust?](#)

Life Area #2 - Lust (5:27-30)

Luke 22:15; James 1:14; II Peter 3:3

"Jesus' teaching here is that a person who cultivates lusting in this manner is not the kind of person who is at home in the goodness of God's kingdom." (160)

- "Look upon a woman for the purpose of lusting for her. Usually the only thing lacking for overt action is the occasion. The adulterer is the one who would have wrongful sex if the circumstances were right...if he/she could not be found out."

- "It is always acted out to some degree and can not be kept a private reality. The look restructures the entire framework of personal relations where it occurs."

Gone - "Sexual harassment & unfair treatment of those who don't attract the lusting look." (161)

...& Adultery

"Actual adultery is much worse."

"Personal relationship has been emptied out to the point where intimacy is impossible." (162)

"Contemporary human beings can not find a reason for not committing adultery." (163)

Anger + Contempt = destroyed marriage sex = fantasy (163-164)

"Thinking of or tempted by sex is not wrong" vs. "Looking to desire her"

"A choice becomes a chosen habit. It is not the law of gravity." (165)

Attraction ~ Distraction ~ Action

Life Area #3 - Divorce (5:31-32)

"Kingdom hearts are not hard." (172)

1) Divorce was never God's intention.

2) A right divorce is not good.

3) Divorce perpetuates adultery in a degraded sexual condition of neglect or prostitution.



["Change?"](#) The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #11 @ 53:00-1:00:50

"What is going on in the heart." "The love of God...crowds out evil" (168)

Next Session - p. 173-185 *Transparent Words & Unquenchable Love*

Meditation & Application

Mark 7:21-23; II Peter 3:18

1. What is the condition of tenderness of my heart? (172)

2. What might I do if I could get away with it? (166)

3. What Kingdom resources can I engage to resolve difficulties in my closest relationships? (172)

**CHAPTER 5 - "The Rightness of The Kingdom Heart:
Beyond the Goodness of Scribes & Pharisees"**

Session 16 - pages 173-185

Six Areas of Life: #'s 4-6 - "Transparent Words & Unquenchable Love" - Matthew 5:33-48

A good man makes... "Progression toward Agape Love" (139)

Life Area #4 - A Yes that is a Yes Respect others without coercion or manipulation
I swear to God. "A method of getting their [our] way." (174)

Life Area #5 - Response to Personal Injury Reciprocity thru Equalization or Kingdom Heart?

Kingdom Position - I surrendered. I'm not in charge so...

"I'm not run by anger, contempt or absorbing desire (fantasy)." (176, 180)

"When injured, our world does not suddenly become our injury. We have a larger view of our life and our place in God's world. We see God; we see ourselves in His hands." (176)

We see our injurer as...under God. This vision and the grace that comes with it, enables the prayer, "Father, forgive them..."

Cases of Non-Resistance

1. Turn the Other Cheek 2. Give him the shirt off your back
3. Go the extra mile 4. Say yes to the ask

Do you... Throw your hands up? Fall into Legalism? Become like Jesus?

The Kingdom Person - How people live who stand in the flow of God's life now (178)

Living the Great Inversion (178, 88 & 90) - Not a Law of Required Vulnerability (179)

"What happens when one derives one's response from the reality of the kingdom is that the dynamics of personal interaction are transformed." (180)

Life Area #6 - Enemies - "Take on the nature of your Father, the One in the Heavens" (182)

"Goodness (a Good Man) is Love - Agape Love" - we discover love as a life power (182)

"He calls us to Him to impart Himself to us. He does not call us to do what He did, but to be as He was, permeated with love." (183) "The deeds of love, including loving our enemies, are what agape love does in us and what we do as the new persons we have become." (184)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #11 @ 1:08:00-1:12:35](#)

Next Session — p. 187-202 *Investing in the Heavens: Escaping Reputation & Wealth*

Meditation & Application I Corinthians 13 - *Read as Jesus not what we should do*

1. How am I in the progression of releasing my kingdom to God?
2. How would practicing "Yes be Yes" and "No be No" change my family or business?
3. What area of my daily action least reflects loving my enemies? Most reflects?
4. What one extra mile can I travel in the next week?

Chapter 6 - "Investing in the Heavens: Escaping the Deceptions of Reputation & Wealth"

Session 17 - pages 187-202

The Respectability Trap - Matthew 6:1-18 - Life Area #7

Who is your audience?

"First, the teaching is not that we should hide our good deeds." (189)

"Second, our intent is determined by what we want and expect from our action." (190)

"God does not like to be present where He is not wanted." (190)

Disciplines as a means of Grace to practice what Jesus taught

I. Giving - Mt. 6:1-4

"Hypocrite" - Used 17 times by Jesus alone = "an actor, one being on stage" (191)

Generous people - "do what they do naturally, often automatically" (192)

II. Praying - Mt. 6:5-15

"Again, the ego swells, the soul shrivels" (193, 191))

"Kingdom praying and its efficacy is entirely a matter of the innermost heart's being totally open and honest before God. In apprenticeship to Jesus...He teaches us how to be in prayer what we are in life and how to be in life what we are in prayer." (195)

III. Fasting - Mt. 6:16-18

"Jesus indicates that physical nourishment too was available directly from spiritual sources." (198) "Nourishing ourselves on the person of Jesus." (199)

"**The Discipline of Secrecy** will help us break the grip of human opinion over our souls..." (200)

As Gathered Christians...

"...a primary cause of their ineffectiveness as schools of eternal living." (201)

The public nature of our Christianity vs. the private nature of our Christ (Webster)

"We must not have human approval as a primary or even major aim." (202)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 08:00-21:15 ["Sermon on the Mount"](#)

Next Session - Ch. 6 p. 203-214 *The Bondage of Wealth* - Matthew 6:19-34

Meditation & Application John 5:36-44

1. Who am I trying to impress? Why do his/her/their opinions matter so much?
2. What "blessings" or "impact" do I seek to replace life in Jesus, simply Jesus?
3. Is Jesus alone enough for me?
4. What is one action through which I can practice the Discipline of Secrecy?

Chapter 6 - "Investing in the Heavens: Escaping the Deceptions of Reputation & Wealth"

Session 18 - pages 203-214 (to the end of Chapter 6)

The Bondage of Wealth - Matthew 6:19-34 - Life Area #8

Where Your Treasure is Matthew 6:19-20

"Treasure God and 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" - Used 8 times in 2 paragraphs on page 208

"The Kingdom Among Us" (208) - *Used at least 34 times in the book*

Worth in Birds & Flowers and My Worry Torn Life Matthew 6:25-34

"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)

"The character of divine love, which only those in the family of God actually possess. This is the golden thread that winds its way through the entire discussion of Kingdom living by Jesus, continually correcting our vision and giving us hope." (212)

"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. But they were murdered nonetheless." (213)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 21:10-29:40 [Trusting Money](#)

Next Session — p. 215-227 *No Condemnation* - Matthew 7:1-5

Meditation & Application Philippians 4:4-7

1. As a student of myself, what do I treasure and what does it tell me about my heart, my will?
2. How does my generosity, or lack thereof, reveal whose kingdom reigns over me?
3. How much of my vocational effort is to invest in the Earth vs. the Heavens?
4. What treasure reveals an idol in my life? How can I fast from it in an easy & experimental way ideally with joy? What is Jesus revealing to me about my life in Him and His Kingdom?

Chapter 7 - "The Community of Prayerful Love"

Session 19 - pages 215-227

No Condemnation

Matthew 7:1-5

Valuable Summary - "We have no need to be anxious, for there is a divine life, the true home of the soul, that we can enter simply by placing our confidence in him; becoming his friend, and conspiring with him to subvert evil with good. He also shows us how we can be renewed in the depths of our soul, stepping 'beyond the goodness of the scribes & Pharisees' to become the kind of persons who are genuinely at home in God's world." (215)

"Stepping outside of **The Kingdom Among Us** to manage our world on our own." (216)

The Centrality of the Order - A valuable summary Matthew 5-6

Mt. 7:1-12 - "The kingdom attitude (agape love) toward those closest to us." (217)

"Therefore" in v. 12 refers to 1-11 "we extend respect to others as we expect from them"

Judge Not - "Abandon the deeply rooted human practice of condemning & blaming" (217)

Who Can "Correct" 1) Sin confirmed 2) by the Mature 3) for Restoration 4) without Contempt

Condemnation with Anger & Contempt

"The decision to step aside from [condemnation], neither giving it nor receiving it, is a major turning point in one's life. Of course, half the battle with condemnation is won when we give up anger and contempt." (221) "It [Condemnation] often grows into shame" (222)

So that You...

Be Not Judged - "Counterattack" or "Reciprocity" (223)

Eliminate Condemnation then Help - "The Log Eye"

Judging and Discerning - "The Appraiser" & "The Approval Seeker"

"When we enter the life of friendship with the Jesus who is now at work in our universe, we stand in a new reality where condemnation is simply irrelevant. It seems only intelligent just to have done with the whole condemning game." (227)



The Divine Conspiracy Lectures

[Matthew 7:1-5](#) #12 @ 29:40-41:00

["Change"](#) #11 @ 1:00:50-1:07:45

Next Session - Ch. 7 p. 228-239 *Good Becomes Deadly & Community Request* - Mt. 7:6-11

Meditation & Application

Romans 8:1 applied like Galatians 6:1

1. What is my condemnation level on a scale of 1-10 (10 high). Who can I ask to rate me?
2. What is/was the presence of condemnation in my family? Marriage? Work?
3. What does "a practiced spirit of intelligent agape" (225) mean to me?
4. With whom do I need to seek forgiveness and/or commit to offering non-condemning love?

Chapter 7 - "The Community of Prayerful Love"

Session 20 - pages 228-239

CAUTION: *Learning and living Jesus' wisdom found in these 12 pages can transform you as a spouse, parent, manager, friend and "advisor" to live the Golden Rule.*

When Good Things Becomes Deadly (228-231) - Matthew 7:6

Dogs & Hogs- "Our practice of 'condemnation engineering' ... usually goes hand in hand with another device mistakenly used to manage the lives of those we truly care about... the practice of pushing things of God upon them whether they want or are ready for them or not." "What we are actually doing with our proper condemnation and our wonderful solutions is taking others out of their own responsibility and out of God's hands and trying to bring them under our control."
(230) * *Pearl Pelting from our Toolboxes & Jewelry Boxes* (Webster)

The Request as the Heart of Community (231-239) - Matthew 7:7-12

The Dynamic of the Request through The Continuum of Prayer

"Once I back away, maintaining a sensitive and non-manipulative presence, I am no longer their problem. As I listen, they do not have to protect themselves from me and they begin to open up. I am no longer trying to drive them, genuine communication, real sharing of hearts, becomes an attractive possibility." (231)

"A request by its very nature unites. A demand immediately separates." (233)

"Prayer is nothing but a proper way for persons to interact." (234)

"Our confidence in God is the only thing that makes it possible to treat others as they should be treated." (235) "Receiving the good news of the Kingdom...obliterates scarcity and win-lose relationships." (236) "To understand it [life together in the Kingdom of God] totally revolutionizes how we deal with our families...Christians...citizens." (236)

"Laughter - good for our health...a symbol of redemption." (238)

Laughter is a barometer of the Kingdom presence in my life. (Webster)

Practice - * "Discipline of Triangle Prayer Communication" (Webster)

The act of talking with Jesus simultaneously while I'm listening or speaking to someone



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 41:00-57:30

[Matthew 7:6-12](#)

Next Session — p. 239-253

Prayer in the Cosmic Setting

Meditation & Application

1. Whose life am I managing? What blocks me from entrusting them to Jesus?
2. How do I respond to the idea - "prayer is good communication between humans"?
3. How habitually do I talk to Jesus while I'm talking with or speaking to someone?
4. With whom will I practice "Asking, Seeking, Knocking" vs. "Telling, Forcing, Pounding"?

Chapter 7 - "The Community of Prayerful Love" (continued)

Session 21 - pages 239-253

Prayer in the Cosmic Setting

"If anyone loves me, he will obey...we will make our home with him." (John 14:23)

On Not Getting What We Ask For

Two types of causation: 1) Under our control 2) Not under our control - Works thru request

* Peter (Luke 22:32) - Jesus didn't fix Peter. He prayed. "Perhaps no other scene in all of scripture forcefully portrays the community of prayer love as this response to Peter." (240)

Further Understanding of Prayer - "Heroism is totally out of place in the spiritual life." (241)

Kingdom Praying (the phrase is used on p. 249)

1. Prayer is Basically Request - Prayer is Asking: requesting things from God

"Talking to God about what we are doing together." (243)

2. Praying Life "Praise and Thanksgiving accompany vital prayer" (243)

3. Changing God "Our universe is a world that responds to desire and will." (246)

"Desire and will influence physical reality by simply desiring and willing it to behave in a certain way." (247)

4. A Universe Responsive to Personality - "Prayer is an expression of thought, will and desire." (248) "Personality in its human form has effects - through appropriate exertions of thought, will and desire - that work beyond the familiar channels of physical causation." (249)

"Prayer is coming to a person other than oneself and asking that they do something that one cannot do oneself." (249)

5. Prayer Trains Us to Reign - "Prayer teaches us to govern, to reign with Him in His Kingdom." "Prayer is a means of forming character. It combines freedom & power with service & love. What God gets out of our lives is simply the person we become. It is God's intention that we should grow into the kind of person he could empower to do what we want to do." (250)

6. "Prayer teaches us to wait for God to move." (250)

"Jesus emphatically taught that we are to stay with the request." Luke 11:5-6; 18:1ff (251)

"...expect prayer to proceed in the manner of a relationship between persons." (252)

7. God's Dignity - "God is the Most Moved Mover...the One who lives with us and whom we approach from within the community of prayerful love." (253)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 56:20-1:16:00

"Prayer"

Next Session — p. 253-269

The Grandest Prayer of All - The Lord's Prayer

Meditation & Application

Luke 18:1-6

1. Define "prayer" in light of a Father who loves me and wants to be at home with me.
2. What are the top 3 obstacles to me "talking to God about what you are doing together"?
3. Practice a discipline of journaling a prayer everyday this week.

Chapter 7 - "The Community of Prayerful Love" (continued)

Session 22 - pages 253- 269

The Grandest Prayer of All - Matthew 6:9-13

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

"Although he [Jesus] spent much time alone in prayer, he also spent much time praying in the presence of his students." (253)

"We live in a Trinitarian universe, one where infinite energy of a personal nature is the ultimate reality. When we pray, we enter the real world, the substance of the Kingdom, and our bodies and souls begin to function for the first time as they were created to function. Indeed, the transfiguration of Jesus must be regarded as the highest revelation of the nature of matter recorded in human history." "Jesus, the quintessential man, that is, the Son of Man, is the only one who has brought the role of matter to its fullness in his own personality." (254)

Our Father, the One in the Heavens

"God must be addressed." "...failure or inability to place themselves within this configuration and receive it by grace...may be because they actually do not live within the Kingdom configuration." (254) "Take time to fix our minds on God and orient our world around Him. Our Father always near us...in the heavens." (257)

Five Requests in the Lord's Prayer

1. Hallowed be Thy Name - "Let your name be sanctified." (258)
2. Thy Kingdom Come - "Asking for the kingdom, God's rule, to come, to be in effect." (260)
"Culture is where wickedness takes on group form." (260)
3. Give Daily Bread Daily - "Today I have God and He has the provisions." "When we accept and practice Jesus' teaching on prayer, we are entirely freed from concerns about the future." (261)
4. Don't Punish Us for Wrong - "Jesus teaches us to ask for pity. Without it life is hopeless. The gift of pity as an atmosphere in which we can then live." (264-265)
5. Don't Put us to the Test - "A vote of 'no confidence' in our own abilities." (265)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #12 @ 1:15:55-1:19:15 ["Lord's Prayer"](#)

Next Session — p. 271-281

Who is Our Teacher?

Meditation & Application **Luke 11:1-8**

1. How do Dallas' words on "pity" (p. 262-264) impact my view of forgiveness?
2. If I was to grade myself on prayer, what would my grade be? Read Luke 11:1 and ask, "What keeps me from being like the one who asked to be taught how to pray?"
3. Practice praying the Lord's Prayer Morning, Lunch and Evening this week. Focus on one word or phrase for the few hours until the next time of prayer.

Chapter 8 - "On Being a Disciple, or Student of Jesus"

Session 23 - pages 271-281

Who is Our Teacher?

"You are somebody's disciple. You learn how to live from somebody else. Probably you are a disciple of several somebodies. Who has taught us, mastered us, and then to evaluate the results in us of their teaching." (271, 272)

Earthly Society of Jesus - "The assumption of Jesus' program for His people on earth was that they would live their lives as His students and co-laborers. They would find Him so admirable in every respect — wise, beautiful, powerful, and good — that they would constantly seek to be in His presence and be guided, instructed and helped by Him in every aspect of their lives." (273)

"The provisions He made for us are provisions for those who are apprentices to Him in Kingdom living. We learn how to do everything we do "in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17) In His presence our inner life will be transformed, and we will become the kind of people for whom His course of actions is the natural (and supernatural) course of action." (273)

Matthew 7:13-27 - Finding the True Path to Community of Prayerful Love (7:12)

- 1.) The Narrow & Good Way (vs. 13-14)
- 2.) True & False Prophets (vs. 15-20)
- 3.) True & False Disciples (vs. 21-23)
- 4.) Wise & Foolish Builders (vs. 24-27)

"To follow Him meant in the first place to be with Him. I am with Him to learn how to be like Him." (276) The Paraclete - His preferred way is to speak, to communicate, thus the absolute centrality of scripture to our discipleship." (277)

"Life in the Spirit - The reality of the Kingdom life is an inner one, a hidden one, with 'the Father who is in secret'." (Romans 14:17-18) "The most exalted outcome of submersion in the risen Christ is the transformation of the inner self to be like Him." (280)

"Discipleship - real life apprenticeship to Jesus, is the passageway within The Kingdom Among Us from initial faith in Jesus to a life of fulfillment and routine obedience." (281)



The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #10 @ 6:50-22:00 ["Practicing the Sermon on the Mount"](#)

Next Session — p. 281-291

How to Be a Disciple

Meditation & Application

1. "Who teaches you? Whose disciple are you? Honestly." (271)
2. "Extensive use of solitude and silence is so basic for growth of the human spirit." (277)
When will you spend more time in solitude & silence with Jesus?
3. *Surrender to Jesus what you can not control and control what little you can...which often means what you will not do.* [Webster]
- How does this way of a Jesus follower impact your day to day decisions?

Chapter 8 - "On Being a Disciple, or Student of Jesus" (continued)

Session 24 - pages 281-291

How to Be a Disciple

"A Disciple, or an Apprentice, is simply someone who has decided to be with another person, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is." (282)

"What is it the incarnate Lord does? What is he good at?"

- 1) "He lives in the Kingdom of God,"
- 2) "He applies that kingdom for the good of others,"
- 3) "He even makes it possible for them to enter it for themselves.
It is what he calls us to by saying, 'Follow me.' As a disciple of Jesus,
I am with Him, by choice and by grace, learning from Him how to live in the Kingdom."

"I am learning how to live my life as He would live my life if he were I."

"My actual life is the focus of my apprenticeship to Jesus.
I am learning from Jesus how to lead my life, my whole life, my real life.
Note: I am not learning from Him how to lead His life." (282-283)

The Glory of My Job

"To be learning from Jesus how to do your job as Jesus Himself would do it." (285)

"We can not effectively be an apprentice of Jesus without integrating our job into *The Kingdom Among Us*." (287)

"**Joy** is our portion in His fellowship. Joy goes with confidence and creativity. It is His joy, and that is not a small joy or a repressed joy. It is a robust joy, with no small element of outright hilarity. For nothing less than joy can sustain us in the Kingdom rightness." (290)

Threefold Ministry of Jesus - (288-291...16, 99, 300 & 305)

Proclaiming, Manifesting & Teaching (Mt. 4:23, 9:35, 10:7-8)



Dallas Willard, [Theology & Spiritual Disciplines in the Workplace](#) @ 0:00-ntro-18:20]

Next Session — p. 291-299

How to Become a Disciple

Meditation & Application

1. What is Jesus good at? What am I good at? Do they integrate? Write out the answers.
2. "I am learning how to live my life as He would live my life if he were I."

This is the key discovery as apprentices in *The Kingdom Among Us* according to Willard. How might this impact my role in my everyday life at home AND at work?

3. On a "Joy Scale" of 1-10 (10 being highest), what is my joy in the following areas:

Work (Daily activities), Family, Neighbors, Ministry, Finances, Self Image, Fellowship

Chapter 8 - "On Being a Disciple, or Student of Jesus" (continued)

Session 25 - pages 291-299

How to Become a Disciple

"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Jesus of Nazareth

"Discipleship remains, a distant, if only beautiful ideal...one can be a professing Christian and church member in good standing without being a disciple. There is apparently no real connection between being a Christian and being a disciple."

"A disciple of Jesus is one who is with Jesus, learning to be like him, what, we must ask, is the state of the soul that would bring us to choose that condition?" (291)

* The Field (Matthew 13:44) and The Pearl (13:45-46)

"The only thing these people were sweating about was whether they would 'get the deal'." (292)

"As long as one thinks anything may really be more valuable than fellowship with Jesus in His kingdom, one cannot learn from Him." (293)

What Should We Do?

ASK - "The rule of the Kingdom is to ask." (295)

DWELL - In His words & put them into practice. "Read the gospels repeatedly". (296)

DECIDE - "I rarely find any individual who has actually made a decision to live as a student of Jesus in the manner discussed in this book." (297)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #5 @ 24:25-38:00](#)

"Imagine groups of people who acknowledged the Lordship of Jesus where the whole purpose was to learn from Him. You have people who are ready for a different kind of operation to go on around them."

Next Session - p. 299-310 *Help Others Find Their Way into Discipleship*

Meditation & Application **John 21:15-19**

1. Do I really intend to be a life student of Jesus?
2. Do I really intend to do all and be all the high things I profess to believe in?
3. Have I decided to do them? When? How am I implementing the decision?

Chapter 8 - "On Being a Disciple, or Student of Jesus" (continued)

Session 26 - pages 299-310 (end of the chapter)

Help Others Find Their Way into Discipleship

“Clearly thought out and decisive apprenticeship to Jesus is the bridge between initial faith in Him and the life of obedience and fulfillment in His kingdom.” (299)

Be Disciples - “If we would make disciples, we should be disciples.” (299)

“We learn from Jesus how to make disciples as He did” (300)

Three fold ministry of Jesus - Proclaiming, Manifesting & Teaching (300, 16, 99, 288, 305)

“Non discipleship is the elephant in the church. The fundamental negative reality among Christian believers now is their failure to be constantly learning how to live their lives in The Kingdom Among Us.” (301)

Intending to Make Disciples - “To bring others to the point where they are daily learning from Jesus how to live their actual lives as he would live them if he were they.” (302)

“Consumer Christianity stands against any intention.” (302) “Non disciple Christians.” (303)

“A pervasive intention to make disciples would radically change the church.” (304)

Changing People’s Real Beliefs - “You lead people to become **disciples** of Jesus by ravishing them with a vision of life in the kingdom of the heavens in the fellowship of Jesus. And you do this by proclaiming, manifesting and teaching the kingdom to them in the manner learned from Jesus himself. You thereby change the belief system that governs their lives.” (305)

“To enable people to become disciples we must change whatever it is in their actual belief system that bars confidence in Jesus as Master of the Universe.” (307) “Be honest about what we and others really believe.” (308) “Beliefs are the rails upon which our life runs.” (309)

The Only Way Forward - “If we cannot break through to a new vision of faith and discipleship, the real significance and power of the gospel of the Kingdom of God can never come into its own.” (309) “The purposes of God will eventually be realized.” (310)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #5](#)

I. “Intention; Kingdom Ravishing” @ 29:45-38:00

“Immersion; Teaching” @ 38:00-45:40

II. “What is a Disciple?” @ 45:40-1:00:40

Next Session - pages 311-320

Studies in The Master Class

Meditation & Application **Matthew 28:18-20**

1. Do I participate in, worse yet, perpetuate Consumer Christianity?
2. What is my intention in disciple making?
3. Who am I inviting with me after Jesus into the Kingdom Among Us?

Chapter 9 - "A Curriculum for Christlikeness"

Session 27 - pages 311-320

The Course of Studies in the Master Class

"Do what I say" Matthew 7:24-25

"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20

Doug's Note - For what it's worth, I have as much notation, underlining, highlighting in these next 10 pages as I do in any other section in the book.

"What could we teach apprentices of Jesus, and how could we train them in such a way that they would routinely do the things He said were right? Indeed, what can we do to put ourselves in position actually to do what He has said?" (311)

"Kingdom obedience is Kingdom abundance." (312)

"Faith in Christ and the obedience/abundance of life in Christ has now become a mystery."

"Training in Christlikeness...is just not there for us." (313) "There now is lacking a serious and expectant intention to bring Jesus' people into obedience and abundance through training." (315)

Again - The Case of the Missing Teacher

"Jesus, the actual teacher of his people has disappeared from the mental horizons of our faith. In that capacity He is not a part of how we "do" our Christianity today. ...face this fact of the absence of Jesus the teacher and to change it." (316)

Curriculum for Christlikeness

A Course of Study and Practice for Apprentices to Jesus in the Kingdom Among Us

"Learn from Jesus how to live our life as He would live it if He were we." (316)

"The training to hear and do must begin. Bring them to believe what they have already heard. Our task is to transform right answers into automatic responses to real life." (317)

The Disciple is Not Perfect...Yet (318-320) *Suggest you read this section out loud*

"Jesus is right." (318) "In order to become like Jesus, we must share his beliefs." (319)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #9](#) @ 1:05:10-1:11:00

Next Session - pages 320-341

Clear Objectives & Enthralling Mind with God

Meditation & Application

Matthew 28:18-20

1. What am I practicing more like Jesus today than when I began this fresh hearing of Jesus?
2. How much am I growing from having faith IN Jesus to having the faith OF Jesus? (320)
3. How will I pray my church and ministries will be used by Jesus to expand Christlike training?

Chapter 9 - "A Curriculum for Christlikeness" (continued)

Session 28 - pages 320-341

Getting Clear on Objectives

Not Primary Objectives - "You can not build your house on the rock this way." (320-321)

1. External conformity to the wording of Jesus' teaching about actions in specific contexts
2. Profession of perfectly correct doctrine (Isaiah 29:13)
3. Encouraging faithfulness to church activities
4. Spiritual ecstatic experiences

Two Primary Objectives - I. Enthralling the Mind with God (II covered next session)

"Dearly love and constantly delight in the Father." "When the mind is filled with this great and beautiful God, the 'natural' response, once all 'inward' hindrances are removed will be to do 'everything I have told you to do.'" (321)

"How do we help people love what is lovely? It can not exist without some vision of the beloved." (323) "If anyone is to love God and have his or her life filled with that love, God in His glorious reality must be brought before the mind and kept there in such a way that the mind takes root and stays fixed." (324)

Our Mind and Our Choices - "What simply occupies our mind very largely governs what we do." "The deepest revelation of our character is what we choose to dwell on in thought..." (324)

3 Main Ways God comes before our mind:

1. His creation (326-332)
2. His public acts in history and Jesus (332-336)
"The key to loving God is to see Jesus." (334)
Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Master of Creation - John 14:23
3. Human experience of Him (337-341)

"We will never have the easy, unhesitating love of God that makes obedience to Jesus our natural response unless we are absolutely sure that it is good for us to be, and to be who we are...and that nothing irredeemable has happened to us or can happen to us on our way to our destiny in God's full world." (337)



["Grace & Discipleship"](#) from Dallas Willard

Next Session — p. 341-352

Acquiring Habits of Goodness

Meditation & Application

Romans 8:31-39

1. Which, if any, of the four secondary objectives (320-321) are too primary for me?
2. How has my view of Jesus changed since September, 2013?
3. What "specific doubts" block my confidence in God's goodness? Parents? (338-339)

Chapter 9 - "A Curriculum for Christlikeness" (continued)

Session 29 - pages 341-352

Two Primary Objectives - I. Enthralling the Mind with God (last session)

II. Acquiring Habits of Goodness (this session)

1. Breaking the Bondage to Sin in our Body "Breaking of the power of patterns of wrongdoing and evil that **govern our lives** because of our long habituation to a world alienated from God" (341) "Consumer Christianity is now normative. Such Christians are not inwardly transformed. They remain **governed** by, or slaves of sin. (John 8:34, Romans 6:16)" (342)

2. What Sin Is "The patterns of wrongdoing that govern human life outside the Kingdom are usually quite weak, even ridiculous. **They are simply our habits**. . . automatic responses of thought, feeling and action. Typically we have acted wrongly before reflecting. That leaves us constantly in the position of having to deal with what we have already done."

"Therefore, it is primarily in the body and its social context the work must be done to **replace wrong habits with automatic responses** that flow with the Kingdom of Jesus and sustain themselves from its power." (343)

* Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane - "It was what was not in Jesus that made Him invincible, that kept Him safe." (John 14:30)

"Nothing has power to tempt me or move me to wrong action that I have not given power by what I permit to be in me." (344)

3. Training "The training required. . . will not be done for us. Yet it is something we cannot do by ourselves." (John 15:5) "We must act wisely and consistently over a longer period of time." "We must not do this as if the new life were simply our project. God is at work in us." (345-346)

The Golden Triangle of Spiritual Growth: *Holy Spirit, Real Life & Planned Disciplines*

A. The Action of the Holy Spirit

"The action of the Spirit must be accompanied by our response." (348)

B. Ordinary Events of Life - "Temptations" "Accept circumstances as the place of God's Kingdom and blessing." (348) "Knowledge of the Kingdom puts us in position to welcome all of these. . . to thrive on everything life can throw at us." (349)

"Thus we do know the concrete reality of the Kingdom of the Heavens." (350)



The Divine Conspiracy Lectures

[#9 Introduction](#)

[#8 15:10-18:20](#)

Next Session — p. 353-373

Golden Triangle - C. Spiritual Disciplines

Meditation & Application

Jesus' Kid Brother - James 1:2-4

1. What is my plan for spiritual growth? Dallas says it "must be structured." (352)
2. What bodily habit most consistently blocks my way of following Jesus?
3. Am I in a Kingdom position to thrive on everything life throws at me? Why not more?

Chapter 9 - “A Curriculum for Christlikeness” (continued)
Session 30 - pages 353-373 (end of chapter)

Two Primary Objectives

I. Enthralling the Mind with God (Session 28)

II. Acquiring Habits of Goodness (This Session & Session 29)

The Golden Triangle of Spiritual Growth: (part 3) *Planned Disciplines*

My Nature...My Body...My Plan to Grow

Spiritual Disciplines

“Any activity within our power that we engage in to enable us to do what we cannot do by direct effort.” (353)

The Body is Central

- ~ “It [the body] is the chief repository of the wrong habits that we must set aside.” (353)
- ~ “Appropriate disciplines for developing new habits, kingdom habits, are practiced.” (354)
- ~ “Intensity is crucial for any progress...” (356)

Modeled after the Master

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Mark 1:35

“Follow Jesus into the activities He engaged in to nurture His own life in relation to the Father.” (354) “Enter them with Jesus as Teacher to find the incredible power they have to change one’s world and character.” (355)

An Apprentice in Practice

- Two Abstinence & Two Engagement Habits (357-364): Solitude & Silence; Study & Worship
- Five Practical Steps (364-365)
- Five Dimensions of the Eternal Kind of Life (366-369)



[The Divine Conspiracy #11](#) @ 1:00:50-1:08:00

Next Session - Entire Chapter 10 *Restoration of all Things*

Meditation & Application **Romans 12:1-2**

- 1.) What is my spiritual growth plan? “To build our house on the rock, we must have a definitive plan for doing so.” (363, 352)
- 2.) What will I not do this week to practice trusting the Kingdom? Silence, solitude, patiently listening, not advising, waiting...
- 3.) Who is my spiritual training partner with whom I am sharing my growth plan?

Chapter 10 - "The Restoration of All Things"

Final Session 31 - Entire chapter 10

Why We Must See a Future - "Those who have apprenticed themselves to Jesus learn an undying life with a future as good and as large as God Himself." (375)

"Firmly fixed in our minds what our future is to be like." (376) Col. 3:4, I Jn 3:1-2, Phil. 3:20

The Open Cosmos - "The created cosmos is not a system closed off to itself. It is determined by...personal factors. These factors are God and His Kingdom among us. They have announced themselves definitively in human history in the person and word of Jesus, especially the transfiguration & resurrection." (377)

Our Future in the Universe - We will actively participate in the future governance of the universe." (Mt. 25:21; Rev. 5:10). "His plan is for us to develop, as apprentices to Jesus, to the point where we can take our place in the ongoing creativity of the universe." (378) "Set free in His universe to do what we want to do." (Mt. 13:43 & Daniel 12:3) (379)

Vision and Hope - "We live in a Trinitarian universe where the reality from which all other realities derive is a society of divine persons...this God whose deepest nature is love...has made Himself known by personally approaching human beings and involving Himself in their lives. For all who wish to see. But no one has to see-now. That is how the divine conspiracy works." (384)

God's Future for Us - "Meaning is a kind of spiritual oxygen that enables our souls to live." (386) "In the future phases of the Kingdom lies the meaning of our lives." (387)

"We exist and continue to exist because it pleases God." (389)

"Suppose you are never going to stop existing and there is nothing you can do about it." (390)

= Really Knowing + No Death ("we're better off dead") + Unrestrained + Spiritual Body thru

1) Growing Steadily Now, until 2) A Time of Passing, then finally 3) Reigning with Jesus

* The Master's Mayor "over Ten Cities" (Lk 19.17, Mt. 25:21)

"Those who overcome are welcome to sit with me on my throne." (Rev. 3:21-22)



[The Divine Conspiracy Lecture #4](#)

"The Future of the Created Cosmos" @ 1:23:45-1:27:50

"The Unsearchable Riches of Jesus" @ 1:27:50 -1:35:00

Next Session - *As you go, simply follow Jesus preparing to reign with Him over the Earth*

Meditation & Application **Revelation 22:1-5**

- 1.) How many cities would I like to manage in the new Creation?
- 2.) Is the gift I offer Jesus at the end of my life who I have become? If yes, what am I giving?
- 3.) How have I changed from a fresh hearing of life as an Apprentice of Jesus in the Kingdom Among Us?

Additional Resources from Jesus College

Jesus College Library offers hundreds of resources including dozens and dozens on *THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY* by Dallas Willard including a book Study Guide, (2) webinar Courses from Jesus College & Dallas Willard Ministries, and video links to (2) teaching presentations by Dallas are posted in the [Jesus College Library](#).

You can also find (7) Sermon on the Mount resources in the [Jesus College Library "Teaching Tools"](#) including a "[Worry Free Living](#)" presentation.

"Saddle Up" the Sermon on the Mount - Practice One Daily for 30 Days

<u>Command (30)</u>	<u>Discipline(s)</u>
Matthew 5-7	Listen to and/or read the text once daily
Salt	Speak "Salt" Hourly; Act "Salt" Hourly; Identify trampled others
Light	Planned Kindness; Perform Secrecy Acts anonymously
Practice/Teach Commands	Psalms/Proverbs Memorization; "Law Practice" - OT & Modern Day
Be reconciled	Altar halt; "Alternate Dispute Resol. (ADR); Planned Appeasement
Not look to lust	One eye/hand Day; "My sister/My brother" prayers for pretty & not
Divorce	Pray for/serve the Divorced; Study Marriage scriptures
Oaths/Not swear	"Yes or No" - One word answers for the day
Turn the Cheek	Not have last word; Avoid withdrawal; Stifle Sarcasm
Coat	Clothing Donation; Repeat wearing outfits
2nd Mile	Intentional Service; Use a Cane/Crutch/Wheelchair for the day
Give & Loan	\$ Donation; Seek Borrower(s)
Love Enemies	Keep score of how much you're keeping score
Be perfect	Pray "Father, as you will"; Seek moments to act perfect
Giving	Secrecy; Tithe for a period; Bless strangers
Prayer	Practice few word prayers; Pray out loud privately
Lord's Prayer	Breathe it for a day; Recite Hourly
Fasting	Fast - 1 meal or 1 day; "Fast Driving Fast"
Treasures	Generosity; Simplicity Living period (day, week)
Eye Lamp	Alter (altar) viewing of TV, reading, internet
One Master	Celebration/Gratitude; Spending Freeze Days
No Worries	Creation Walks; "Pagan Run" self evaluation
Kingdom Seeking	"Thy Kingdom Come"; Kneel; Drive in the slow lane; Worry-ometer
Don't Judge	Log Eye List; Extended Solitude
Pearl Pelting	No Opinion Zone; Extended Silence
A.S.K.-Ask, Seek, Knock	"Didn't Ask = Don't Tell"; Ask "Your thoughts?"; Asking Prayers
Golden Rule	"How may I serve you?"; Myself List & Myself-less
Narrow Gate	Gate/road sightings walk; Make a list of personal/spiritual gates
Wolf Hunting	My "Fruit" definitions; Modern day wolves
Father's Will	Intentional Obedience/Sacrifice; Read "Father" scriptures
Rock House Practice	Audio Bible Texts; "Storm Tossed Watch" self evaluation

Compiled by Doug Webster, JesusCollege.com

"The Divine Conspiracy 2022", a 2nd time this Course is offered, is the 11th Dallas Willard Course offered by Jesus College (#10 in partnership with Dallas Willard Ministries) engaging friends of Jesus & Dallas from 40 countries! The Courses are available in the expanding Jesus College Library with hundreds of free Willard Resources including:

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[Renovation of the Heart](#) and a page dedicated to:

[The Divine Conspiracy](#) - 78 resources for this award winning, ground-breaking, faith building work by Dallas including recorded sessions of our full, 31-session webinar presented in 2021.

The Dallas Willard Courses in the Jesus College Library include:

- The Divine Conspiracy - In-depth 31 session course
- The Divine Conspiracy - 6-week overview
- Hearing God - Developing a Conversational Relationship with God
- Renovation of the Heart - Whole Life Spiritual Transformation
- The Spirit of the Disciplines - Understanding How God Changes Lives
- The Allure of Gentleness - Apologetics in the Manner of Jesus
- Life Without Lack - Living the 23rd Psalm
- "For Such a Time as This" - 3 session teaching on Ministry Leadership
- "The Genius of Jesus" - 2 session teaching at Ohio State University
- Becoming Dallas Willard - biography (more "book club" than course)

"THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY" Lecture Series by Dallas Willard

- 1.) [12 Video Sessions - Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel](#)
- 2.) [117 pages of notes compiled by Jesus College](#) *

* Lecture Notes Table of Contents (compiled by Jesus College)

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Total Running Time — 14:45:00

~ Highlights by Topic p. 107-117

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY 365

A daily read through Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy*
by Doug Webster

INTRODUCTION

Here are 365 gems from a life altering, world changing, eternity revealing treatise on what Dallas Willard presents as the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ — access to life in the Kingdom of God Among Us now at hand. Willard intends to elevate the most intelligent, smartest person in history to His rightful and appropriate position as history's greatest and most profound Master Teacher.

The objective of *The Divine Conspiracy* ("The Book") is to help the reader as an Apprentice of Jesus, "Learn how to live my life as He would live my life if He were I." (p. 282) Through this transformational training, you and I will become the kind of people who will naturally and readily do what Jesus commanded. In so doing, we will become a Kingdom Man, a Kingdom Woman, a prince or princess of the King and sibling of the Savior who lives the Sermon on the Mount. In so doing, God will raise up a trinitarian community of love with God at the center. Kingdom Families and Kingdom Communities as Churches will form naturally.

The Content — The Book is divided into 365 "Sections". Each of the sections are direct quotes from The Book. There are approximately 390 pages in the hardback, so each Section is portions from about 1 1/2 pages of The Book.

The Reflection — Each section offers a few words, most often in the form of questions, for you to consider how to live out a message drawn from the particular part of The Book. The form of the reflection is drawn from one of the three key areas of application from The Book, namely the V-I-M: Vision - Intention - Means. To best reflect upon what you read is to enact Dallas Willard's definition of "repent: think about your thinking. Have a thought about your thoughts in the light of this new fact that the rule of God is now immediately available for you to live in." To better repent is to move the word solely from its common, if not sole position in "guilt", (although that may accompany your reflection), to a place of "growth" in grace. To grow in grace to more effectively and fruitfully repent requires a much broader, richer understanding of what grace means. That requirement can be found most powerfully and practically in your journey through The Book.

The Journey — I consider The Book to be the second best book ever published, second to what has often times been called The Big Book - The Bible. I recommend readers not simply read the *The Divine Conspiracy*, but as some have suggested as can be the case with other wise, insightful, challenging great writers like C.S. Lewis — "receive the book". To receive a book takes time. For that reason, you now have a guide to spend the next year reading through The Book. I go as far to advise you spend the next decade reading it. If this is your first time through *The Divine Conspiracy*, you will build a strong foundation of life with Jesus through his Sermon on the Mount upon which you can expand another nine years. Remember, the purpose is to become more like Jesus Christ not finish reading a book.

Maximizing the Journey — A final recommendation: Take three things along with you for the next year: The Bible, a Journal, and a Friend or three. Keep the Word of God — The Big Book, the best book ever published — close at hand, literally referring back and forth as you see Dallas reference scripture. Journaling may be as simple as notes in the margin of The Book's printed pages. Journaling may be a written prayer following your reading. A bound notebook or adding lined pages to a 3 ring notebook are two simple and affordable ways to maximize your journey. Of course, typing your thoughts into a software program for posterity and future study will offer you accessible means by which to re-visit your observations, especially months later, through an easy word search in your document. A third recommendation is to not take the journey solo. Invite a friend to be your "Emmaus Partner" as you two (or few) walk with Emmanuel inviting Him to reveal everything about Himself in the Scriptures. (Luke 24:13-32)

The Invitation — This 365 day format is intentionally simple. The Book's content is deep and challenging enough. In the simplicity of a daily layout, you are offered clarity, brevity, and manageability to flesh out mere Christlikeness over the next year. Consider the word "mere" defined as "that is solely or no more or better than what is specified." It can also present "the smallest or slightest." When you place the word "Mere" before the word "Christianity" you realize there is tremendous depth of understanding to clarify something to its "mere" level, for it becomes not smaller, but more defined in Vision, more direct in Intention, and more daily in Means of application. The "mere" form becomes the case where there is no more or better way to present than what is already specified.

The Prayer — It is my prayer before the King that you will find the same enriched, life changing, fresh hearing of Jesus as I and countless others have following as an Apprentice after the Master through *The Divine Conspiracy*. I pray your daily prayer will be merely, "Our Father, your Kingdom come, your will be done in and through me today as it is in the Heavens where you reign, where what you want done is done."

- SAMPLE ROUGH DRAFT - "Day 1- 22" -
created by Doug Webster for ministry purposes, not for sale

To request a larger sample of this work in progress, email info@JesusCollege.com

Sample of Day One is on the next page

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY 365

DAY ONE

THE BIG BOOK — “God’s care for humanity was so great that He sent His unique Son among us, so that those who count on Him might not lead a futile and failing existence, but have the undying life of God Himself.” (John 3:16 paraphrase) (The Book, p.1)

THE BOOK — Life in the Dark (p. 1-2)

“Recently a pilot was practicing high-speed maneuvers in a jet fighter. She turbid the controls for what she thought was a steep ascent — and flew straight into the ground. She was unaware that she had been flying upside down.

This is a parable of human existence in our times—not exactly that everyone is crashing, though there is enough of that—but most of us as individuals, and world society as a whole, live at high-speed and often with no clue, to whether we are flying upside down or right-side up. Indeed, we are haunted by a strong suspicion that there may be no difference— or at least that it is

THE REFLECTION — Vision

When I look at my own life, what do I see from inside my cockpit and equally important, from the outside looking in?

How fast am I flying through life?

What does right-side up look like for me?

Do I even know which end is up, and if not, does it matter to me, I mean really matter?

Jesus College Postscript

Thank you and God bless you for venturing further up, further in the Kingdom Among Us. We trust you have had a fresh hearing of Jesus. May your quietly transforming, conversational friendship with Jesus immersed in the Trinitarian community be pervaded with joy and relaxed with shalom, as you willfully seek the good of God, others & yourself.

For more resources to follow Jesus with the wise, warm, winsome teaching of Dallas Willard...

[Dallas Willard Ministries](#)

[Jesus College](#)

[HarperCollins](#)

The Study Guide work was prepared by Doug Webster of Jesus College. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas on how we might better help you actually do the things Jesus commanded in your pursuit of Christlikeness.

info@JesusCollege.com



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