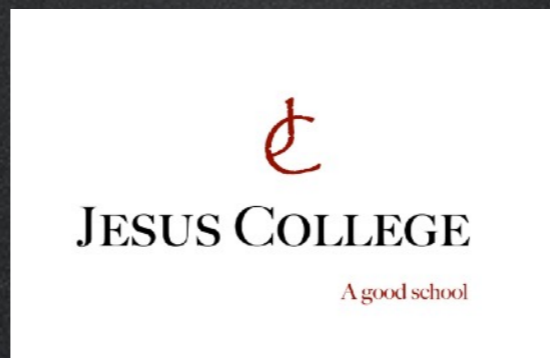


WELCOME to a 15 week course
THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM
by Dallas Willard
presented by



Summary of Session 3

Being attuned to hearing God's word and receiving it into the fertile soil of our lives comes from lives marked by friendship with and confidence in God. (51)

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



THE SCANDAL OF THE KINGDOM

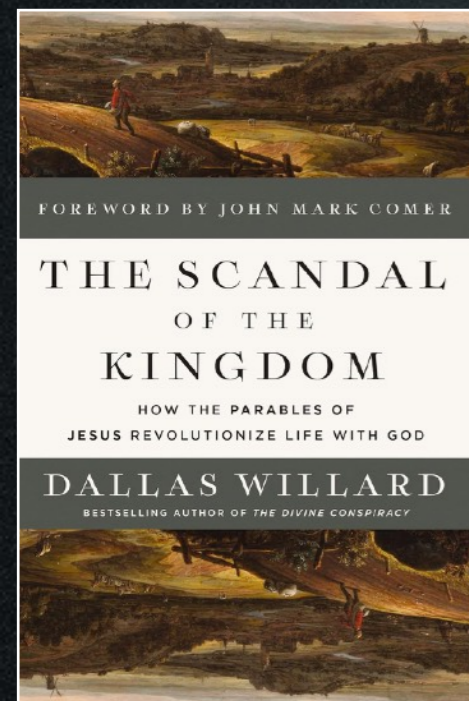
Session 4 - "The Secret Inner Working of the Kingdom"

Chapter 4 (p. 53-69)

I - The Farmer Sowing the Seed — *Mark 4:26-29*

II - The Seed of the Word — *Hebrews 4:12* = LIFE!

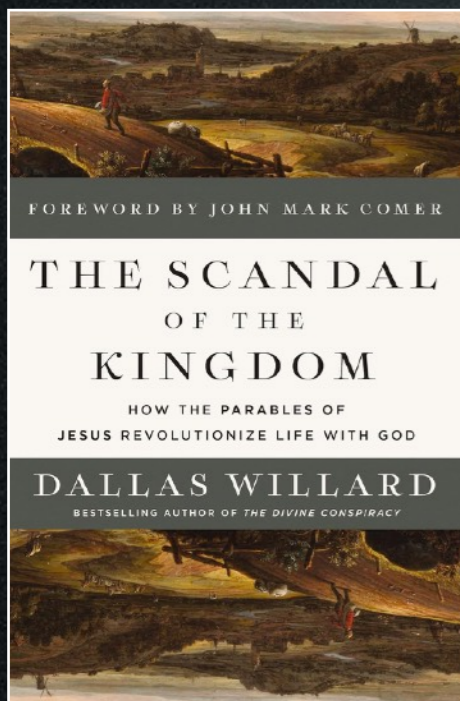
III - The Kingdom Brings Power



²⁶ He also said, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:26-29





Session 4 - "The Secret Inner Working of the Kingdom"

I - The Farmer Sowing the Seed

Mark 4:26-29

The Kingdom of God is like...

More sowing of seeds

Secret of the A.B.I. Principle - *All By Itself*

"All by itself the soil produces grain" (v. 28)





³⁰ Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; ³² but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.” Mark 4:30-32





*In Luke, Jesus follows the mustard seed parable with,
The Kingdom of God is like leaven...*

Yeast is an unseen ingredient that has to be kneaded into the dough.

As Dallas writes,

“The Kingdom of God is a kind of life that keeps growing like a mustard seed and leaven...growing far beyond what we call the church...people gathered in a building on Sunday.” (55)



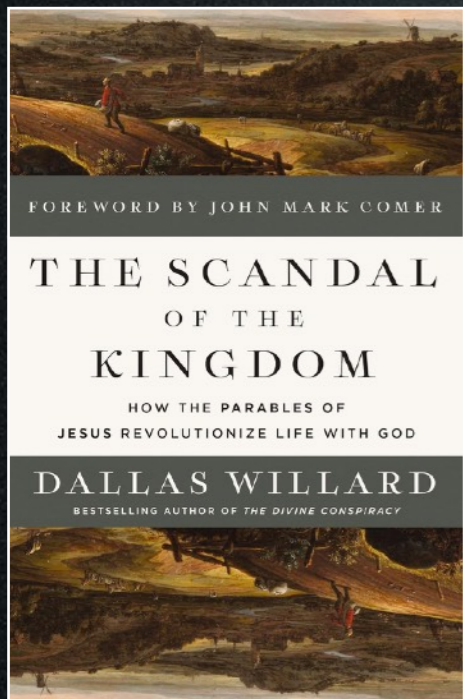
Nothing appears more often in Jesus' parables than a seed. The seed is a power to organize reality... in a specific and defined way to make a plant out of dirt, water, and sunlight. That is why the logos is actually portrayed as a seed – it is a spiritual power to organize reality. (55-56)

“Jesus - the seed of Abraham” Romans 9:7, 11:1

“When the time had fully come...” Galatians 4:4

...when the ground was right, so that Jesus could be implanted as a seed in the fertile earth of history and bring forth the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. (56)





Session 4 - “The Secret Inner Working of the Kingdom”

II - The Seed of the Word

And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able* to hear it. Mark 4:33

One Word, many parables.

“The Word of the Kingdom” (57) [there’s that phrase again]

* - echoes of “bucket size” = capacity & receptivity

The Word Dividing Soul & Spirit

Revealing to the Soul

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

When God speaks a word, it is living - “quick”, personal, and powerful. It is sharp enough to be able to divide the parts of the mind and the personality from one another.

(57)

The Word Dividing Soul & Spirit

Opening all things

The soul — the life principle that is in the individual person, given to them by God, which makes their body and mind function.

The spirit — Given by God to hold the soul and body together. “God is spirit.” John 4:24

The soul and spirit don't occupy space at all.

They are invisible to the naked eye.

When the Word of God comes in, it is so sharp that it can divide, distinguish, and clarify the difference between what is spiritual and individual strength and life.

Discernment is present. All things are open. (57-58)

The Church with and without the Word of God

We see a great difference in the condition of the church during the time of the apostles compared to most of church history. And that difference, above all, is seen in the reality of the spirit. It was important for the early church to distinguish what was the work of the soul and the flesh as opposed to what was the work of the spirit. They knew that unless it was the work of the spirit, it amounted to nothing. The Word of God is able to distinguish between the two. (58)

~ ~ ~

Flashback to the opening page...

When I was a young minister studying my Bible, I came to the realization that something very different went on in the life in ministry of Jesus when compared with the life and ministry of the churches I knew. As I explored the reasons for these differences, I gradually found that in many of our Christian circles, we substituted the message of Christ with a message about Christ. And when we talked about saving faith, we replaced the faith of Christ with a faith in Christ. (5-6)

The Powerful Purpose of the Word

“He saved them out of their distresses.

He sent His word and healed them.

And delivered them from their destruction.” Psalm 107:19-20

He sent Jesus —Logos—to rescue (salvation) and to heal.

“See...Hear...Understand...Turn and I will heal them.”

Matthew 13:15, Isaiah 6:10

“Say the word and he will be healed.” The Centurion Matt. 8:8

“Even evil spirits obey him” Mark 1:27

“Even the wind and the waves obey him.” Mark 4:41

The Word as a Substance...like a Seed

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Mt. 4:4 “Meat to eat that you know not of.” (John 4:32)

We feed on the word of God like manna from heaven.

There are two landscapes* - physical and invisible.

Fasting is taking in substance from the invisible landscape. We are learning how to live on the the nourishing, substantial, living, powerful Word of God.

(61-62)

* - Two landscapes: Dallas, “The Human Side of Holiness” - Video #2 @ 2:25, 6:15, 8:53, 17:10, 26:58, 28:38; 48:10; #4 @ 40:40; 58:00; #5 @ 56:10, 57:55; #6 @ Intro, 7:05, 33:29, 38:55; #7 @ 11:48; #8 @ 58:25, 1:04:20; #10 @ Intro; #12 @ 11:35; #13 @ 21:00, 23:00, 24:30; #17 @ 18:00

Organizing Reality = LIFE! L'chaím

“You must be born again to see the Kingdom” John 3:3, 7

You are given a new life, a different kind of life.

It's not a new start, it's a new life!

Something new has been implanted in you.

The availability of this life from above...

Word as flesh gives power as children of God. John 1:12-13

Through the Word of God which lives forever. 1 Peter 1:23

Receive with meekness the implanted word. James 1:21

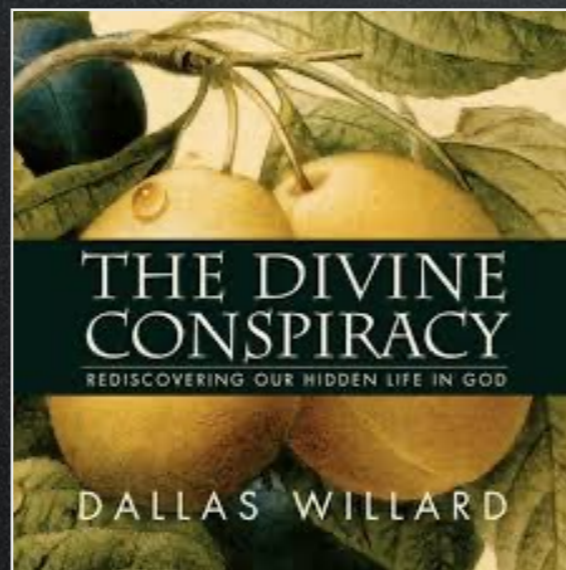
...like a seed, a power to rearrange your life.

(62-63)

LIFE

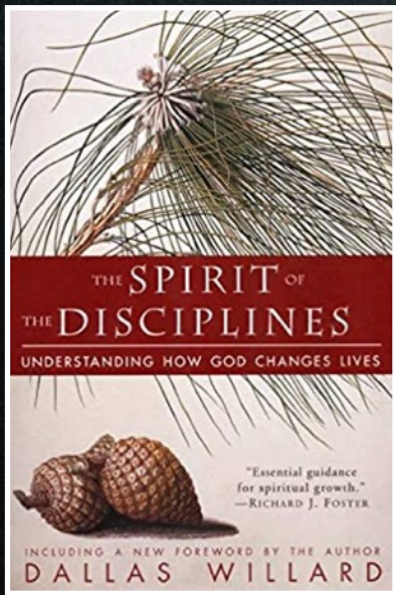
The resources of God's kingdom remain detached from human life. There is no gospel for human life and Christian discipleship, just one for death or one for social action. To counteract this we must develop a straightforward presentation, in word and life, of the reality of life now under God's rule, 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.



Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy , p. 58





Salvation is not just Forgiveness, but as a New Order of Life

Dallas Willard, (32-34) (35, 37, 41)

We must do nothing less than engage in a radical re-thinking of the Christian concept of salvation.

What does it mean to be saved? (32)

We've lost "grace & human personality" together in discipleship.

Inestimable harm: Salvation = mere forgiveness

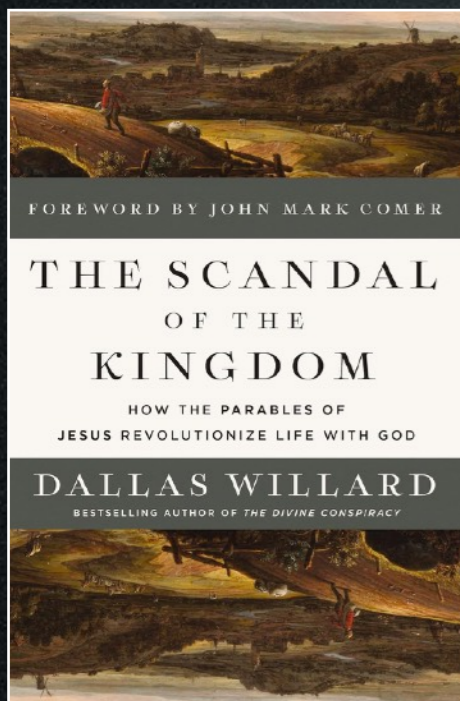
- Theories of Atonement leave salvation and life unintelligible.

God's grace in salvation embodied in human personalities walking with Jesus in His easy yoke.

(33)

LIFE

Romans 5:10, "Saved by His Life"



Session 4 - “The Secret Inner Working of the Kingdom”

III - The Kingdom Brings Power

The gospel of the Kingdom of God is the only word that will have the effect Jesus described as the effect of the Kingdom. (63)

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is NOT...

the Bible, or the church, or *only* the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus, or what we produce. (63-65)

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God IS...

forgiveness of sins, character transformation, and power over evil. (64) (see *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, 38-40)

—> *Forgiveness - Formation - Force*

In the face of murder, theft, and exploitation, we offer people the Kingdom of God. There is no other hope. None.

Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God. He lived it out in his person, and he welcomed others to join him in that same life. He had confidence in God. Like the farmer when he sowed the seed, he abandoned it to the earth. (65)

F.I.T.O - Faith from IN to OF Christ

as we A.T.O. - abandon the outcomes

trusting A.B.I. - the Kingdom working all by itself.

Our Part with God:

PATIENCE • *Confidence* • *Abandonment*

We offer people the Kingdom of God through the power of the seed and the yeast.

We have to understand what grace means – *God acting in our lives to accomplish what we cannot do on our own.*

God will do the work along with us if we make the effort to open our hearts and minds to the Word of the Kingdom. [There's that phrase again!] (65) (+ 66 & 67)

The farmer did sow the seed. [His role in the harvest.]

Grace is not opposed to effort, rather to earning.

The seed grew, “all by itself.” *Kingdom A.B.I. principle!*

We don't try to force people.

We speak the Word of the gospel, live as a disciple, lovingly teach, and be with people...

and the growth will come. (65-66)

Our Part with God:

Patience • CONFIDENCE • Abandonment

Dallas learned as a young preacher boy at Baylor University, “Try to have something to say.” Simply live with the Lord and count on him to have the effect he wanted.

We are to let the living water flow and to concentrate on taking it in. Dallas abandoned trying to get anyone to do anything.

“Get out of the business of making things happen.”

John Ortberg - What word describes Jesus?
Dallas - Relaxed!

This means we can relax.

Jesus had utter confidence in the Word that he spoke.
Like the farmer, he abandoned it to the ground.



Our Part with God:

Patience • Confidence • ABANDONMENT

We are told be witnesses - what we have seen and experienced.

We are told to make disciples - show forth the life of the Kingdom in our lives and prayers.

We are told to give a reason for our hope - I Peter 3:15.
Complete confidence - sow and, like Jesus, abandon it.

We are *not* told to win souls. (Audio #3 @
Stop trying to make people think or act a certain way.
Present the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

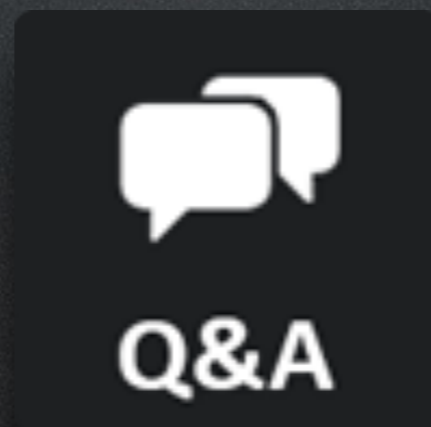
Give God the time to work! Speak the Word!

II Timothy 4:2, Philippians 2:14-16

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



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

7 Secrets

The instrument is the “Word of the Kingdom” (8, 8x’s in ch. 3, 57, 65-67) with a power and life of its own. (54)

Jesus preached that the Kingdom of God is now available. (10)

The one who is least in the Kingdom of the heavens is greater than John the Baptist. (12)

Jesus’ teaching - the Kingdom of God is not a thing of time and places; is it a thing of the heart. (14)

Yeast in bread - a reminder of the nature of the Kingdom of the heavens. (21)

The Great Inversion - if you are poor and you're in the Kingdom of God, you are blessed. (23) First—last. Last—first. Mt. 19:30 (25)

The Kingdom of God’s power is its truth, love, mercy, forgiveness, and gentleness, (25)...love, understanding, and maturity. (41)

"The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom"

7 More Secrets

We can increasingly be like Jesus, perfectly safe and perfectly strong in the Kingdom of God. (26)

Capacity – "For to those who have, more will be given" is the marvelous law of the Kingdom of God. (28) If we don't listen with care, even what we've heard maybe be lost. (50)

Jesus taught to open the heart but he would not force it. (30)

Interaction of God with us through his Word is a personal matter, depending upon the condition of our hearts, minds, and lives. (36)

If we're going to work with God in the Kingdom of God, we have to find the ways he has chosen to work, and then work with him in those ways. (40)

The gospel of the Kingdom of God is the only word that will have the effect Jesus described as the effect of the Kingdom. (63)

You have to abandon the seed to the ground and let it work.

(65, 66, 67, 68)

Summary of Session 4

The Word of the Kingdom works all by itself revealing with power the substance to heal life.

Our role is to cast the seed of the Kingdom, and trust with abandonment, the power of grace with patient confidence like Jesus as the seed of Abraham implanted with God.



80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *Hebrews 4:12*

Application

VISION - Where have I seen God's Kingdom yield power?

INTENTION - Where do I do the work of the flesh versus the Spirit?

MEANS - Prayerfully read and reflect and rest in Hebrews 4:12



† Cross Fit

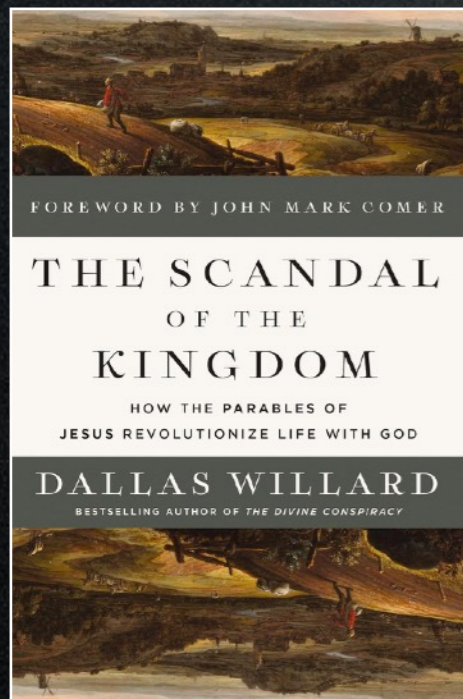


**Two Dallas Teachings (audio + video)
to complement Session 4**

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

#3: The Secret Manner of the Kingdom's Working:
Leaven & Seed [45:15]

2.) "The Divine Conspiracy" #3 "Ministry in the Kingdom"
[00:33-7:20]



Next Week — Session 5


“The Greatest Opportunity”

Read Ch. 5 (70-86)

and

Luke 14:8-24; Matt. 13:44-46

The Wedding Feast, Treasure & Pearl

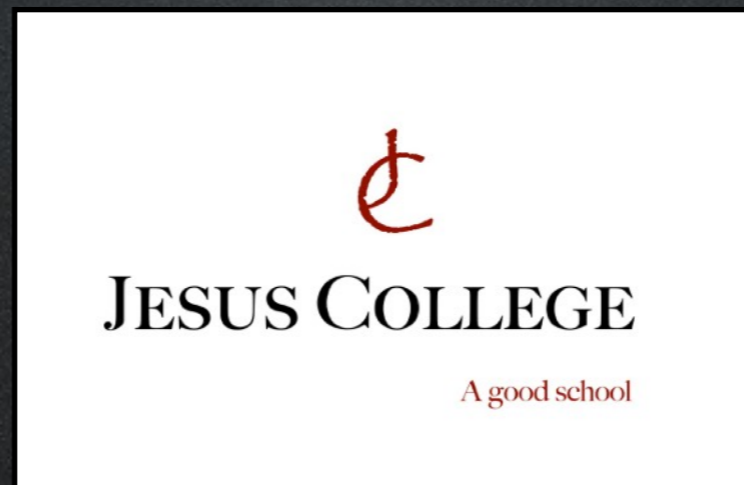


Enjoy your next 10,000 minutes working with Jesus by grace to scatter seeds everywhere as a relaxed witness, evangelist, apologist, and friend who has abandoned the outcomes by trusting the Word of the Kingdom.

Doug

Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”



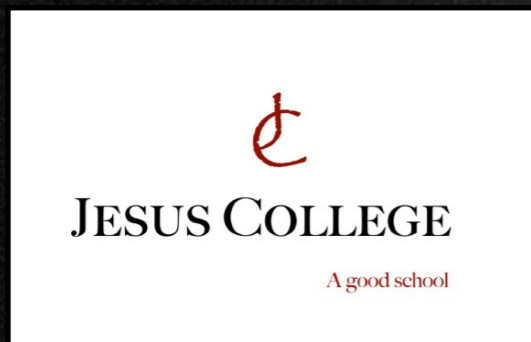
Jesus College Mission - To Empower Apprentices of the Master Teacher Jesus as the One, great truth to live a good life found in Him.

Jesus College Vision - Equipping Trainers—Parents, Pastors, Professionals, Professors, Politicians—to mentor Senior Apprentices who will make Apprentices of Jesus.

- **Courses** • **Resources** • **Gatherings** • **Relationships**
- ∞ 21 FREE, ready-to-learn COURSES
- ∞ 486 [FREE downloadable](#) RESOURCES with over 6500 pages of guides, slides, notes, and links
- ∞ In-person and online GATHERINGS

For a good life in the person, work, teachings and life of Jesus.

JesusCollege.com



@OneAfterJesus