

WELCOME to a 31 week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Review of Chapters 1-3

The Confusion

There is now no recognized moral knowledge upon which projects of fostering moral development could be based. (3)



The Habitation of the Eternal

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)

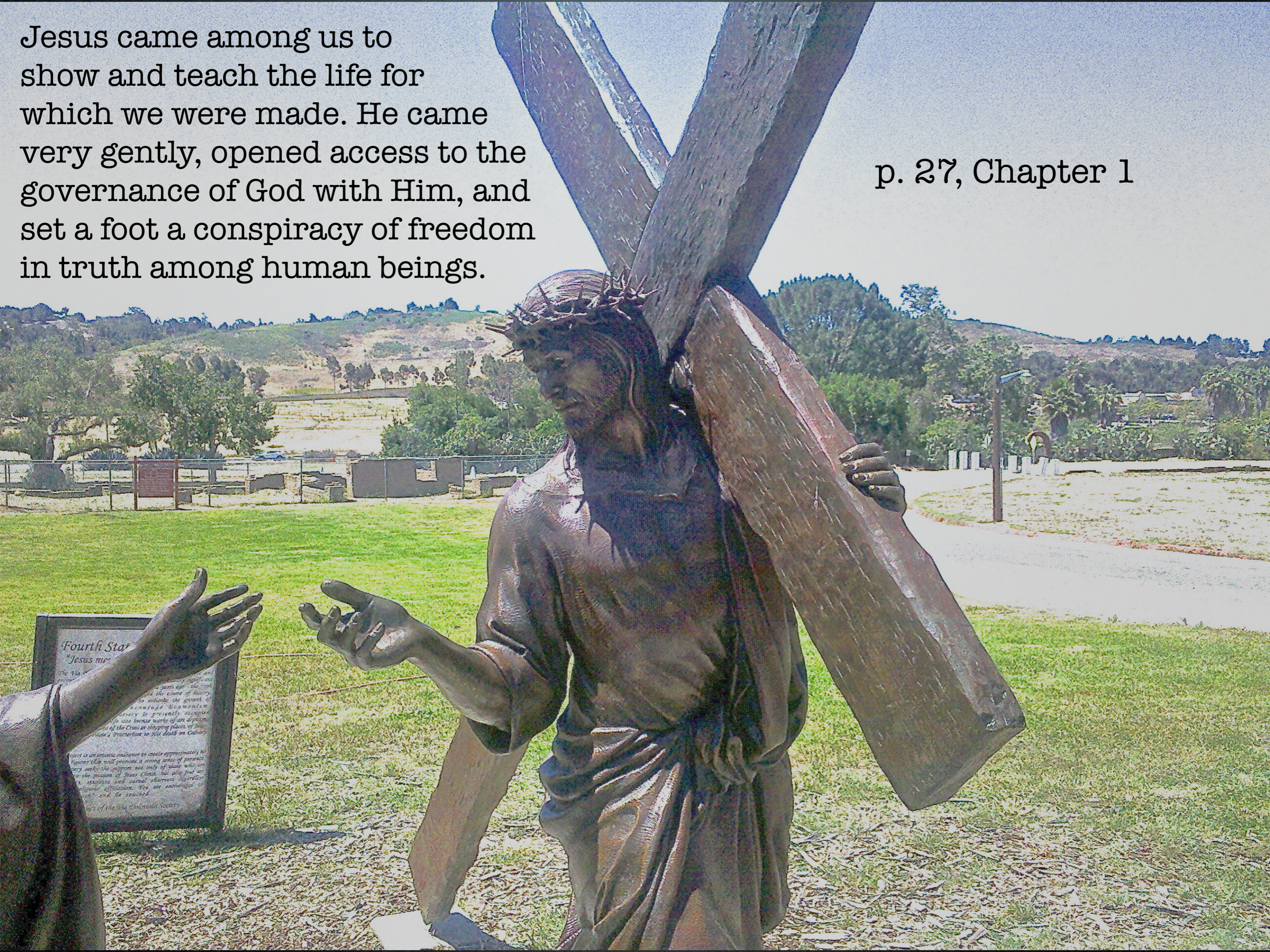


We are built to count. (15)

Ch. 1 - "Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now"

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.

p. 27, Chapter 1




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.

p. 58

Ch. 2 - "Gospels of Sin Management"





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.

p. 62

Ch. 3 “What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World”

Jesus...the Smartest Man in the World

Our commitment to Jesus can stand on 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.

p. 94, Chapter 3



THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CONSPIRACY

To elicit love & obedience through the development of character so that out of human history comes a **certain kind of community** that is going to have a role forever in the universe. (1)

People who...

...have the character & power of Jesus Christ Himself. (2)

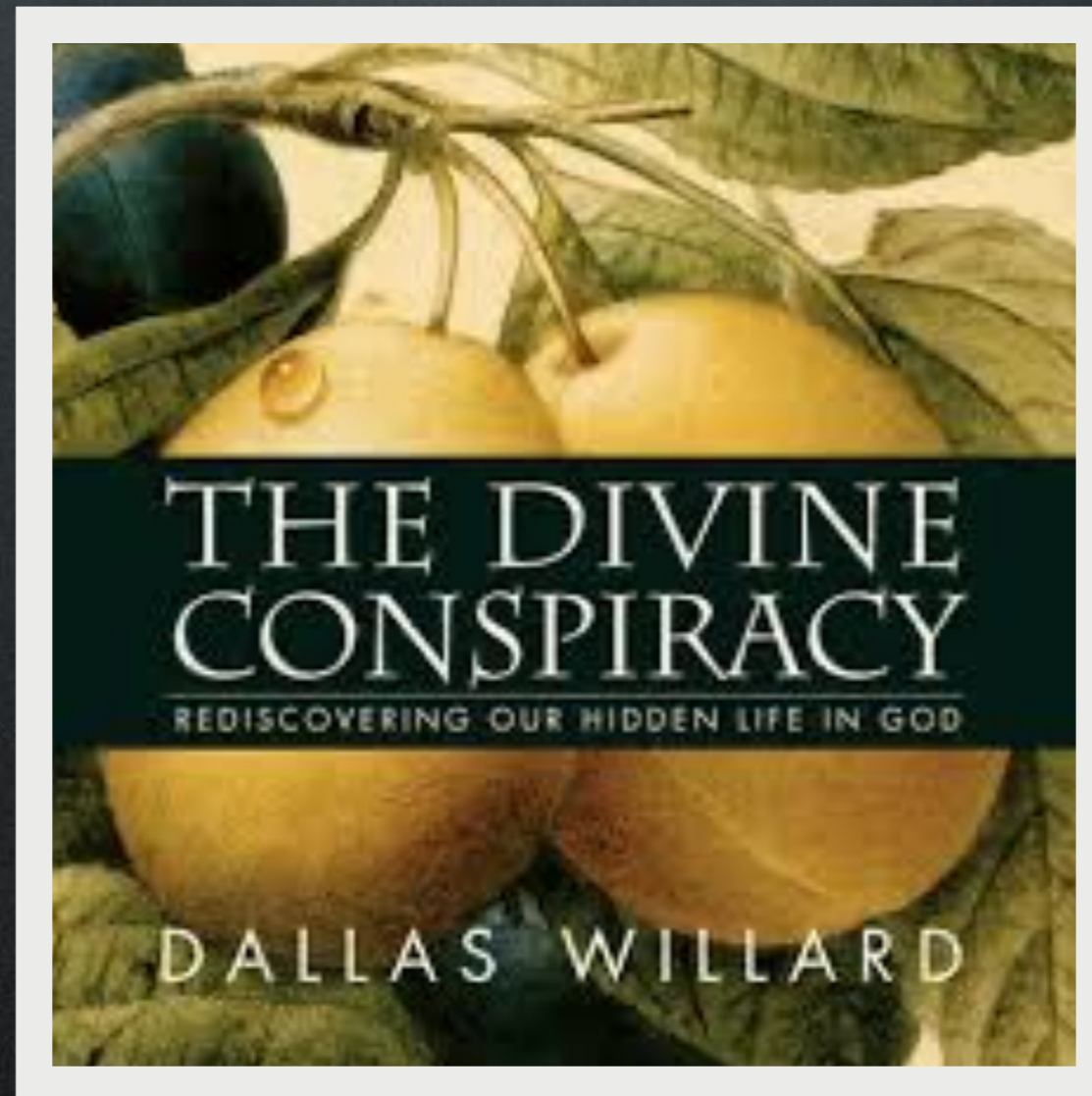
...have the quality of the Trinity in their unity in love. (3)

...He can empower to do what they want. (3)

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 4 - Who is Really Well Off?

Session 10 - The Puzzle of The Beatitudes





THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Life's Four Major Questions*

Q1 - What is reality?

A - "The Kingdom of God."

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

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

Q3 - Who is a good person?

A - "One permeated with agape love."

Q4 - How do I become a good person?

A - "Become an apprentice of Jesus."

* [\(12\) sources \(30 pages\) from Dallas on "Life's 4 Big Questions"](#)

In memory of Dallas Willard

September 4, 1935 - May 8, 2013

Beloved Professor of Philosophy (1965-2012)

“You cannot ‘opt out’ of having a worldview.

You can only try to have one that most accords with reality,
including the whole realm of facts concerning what is genuinely good.
The four questions any worldview must answer are:

What is reality?

Who is well-off?

Who is truly a good person?

How does one become a truly good person?

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Ch. 4 - Who is Really Well Off?

The Puzzle of the Beatitudes

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

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

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

The Beatitudes are among the literary and religious treasures of the human race along with the Ten Commandments, the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's Prayer.



How do we live the Beatitudes?

Not as Guilt.

Not as 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”

23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 4:23-25



Spiritual Zeros under Heaven's Care

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 to Make the List

“Propriety” - Trying to engineer our way into the Kingdom - to secure blessedness. (103)

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mournful,
the humble or humbled, the hungry, the persecuted...”*

Is this the teaching of Jesus in the Beatitudes?

- These conditions are meritorious for God to match with beatitude.
- You can be sure you are in the Kingdom if you flee or fall into these conditions.
- If you are not in these conditions, you certainly are not blessed. (104)



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)

Flashback

For many, a "pretty poison"... (99)



“The meaning of the Beatitudes is to be understood in light of this great inversion, they are primarily the proclamation of the availability of the Kingdom.” ¹

“God is where you are. Where you are is the doorway to Heaven. Remember Heaven does not mean what happens after you die. Heaven means the presence of God, the Kingdom of God is here. It does not matter what you are, who you are, what you’ve got against you. None of that matters. That’s the lesson of The Beatitudes. You only understand the gospel of the Kingdom of God if there is no limit to whom you can go and say, Blessed.” ²

“The Divine Conspiracy” Lectures

1 - Session 6 @ 1:02:50

2 - Session 7 @ 00:4:00

The essential message — “Whosoever will may come.” Romans 10:13

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

Meditation — *Matthew 5:1-13*

Application

Q - Do Jesus' teachings of the Beatitudes apply to me today, and if so, how?

Q - How does my "belief system" demand me to engineer my way into God's good graces?

Q - Do I have a "list" to earn eternity? Do I sell that list as a proprietary controller of the "goods"?



Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the _____,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

What beatitude would you fill in?

Blessed are...

the unemployed...

those who are pregnant too many times...

those who can't get pregnant...

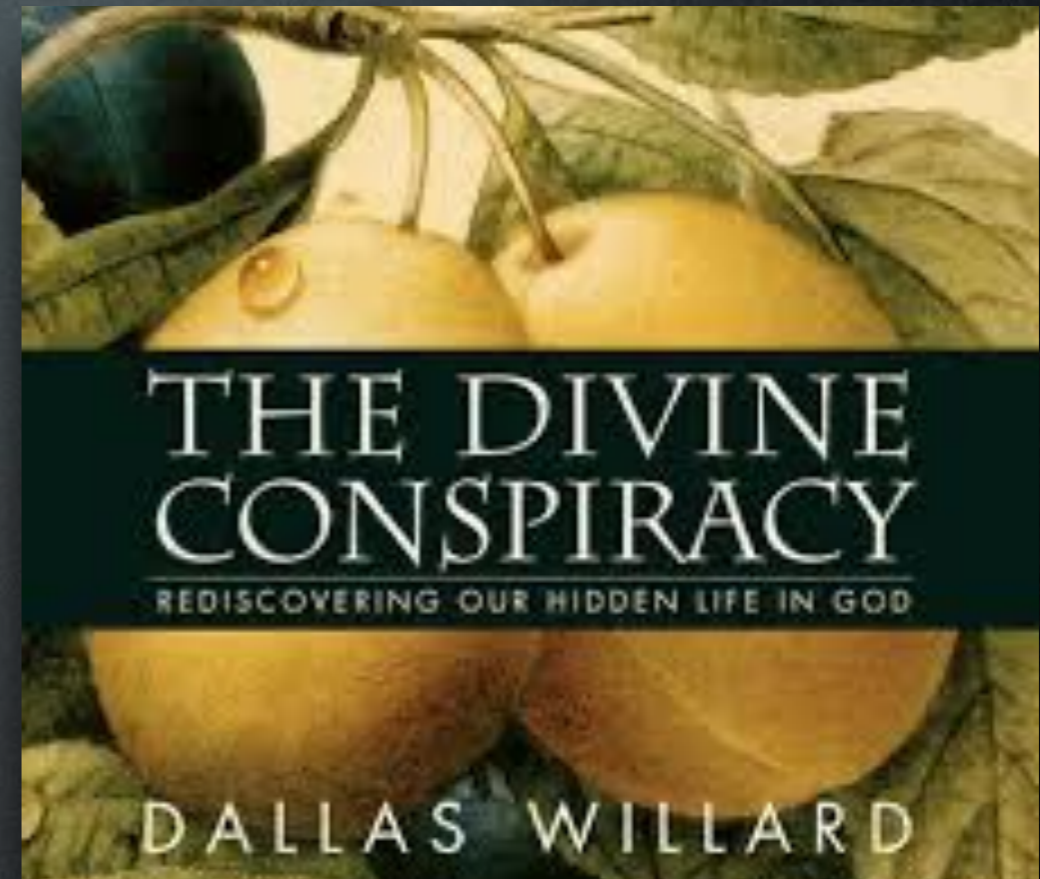
the fat...

the nobodies...

the LDBP Community - Lame, Deaf, Blind, Poor

Session 10 Summary

A blessed life is living in the present availability of the Kingdom of God right where you are, in spite of, and in the midst of, your circumstances.



80:00 + 10K



“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

The Harvey Fellows 2004 Summer Institute

[12-part video series link](#)

Course Session 10 * Recommended Teachings

Teaching the Beatitudes [DC #6 39:30 - End](#)

The Puzzle of The Beatitudes [DC #7 - 0:00-10:25](#)

(119) pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

<https://www.jesuscollege.com/dallaswillard-thedivineconspiracy>

* See the Reading Schedule for related teachings

Next Week — Session 11

Ch. 4 - “Who is Really Well Off? The Beatitudes”

“Dealing with the Soul in Depth - Jesus as Teacher”

Hardback - pp. 107-114

Paperback - pp. 121-130

For Recorded Sessions + Slides, go to:

[JesusCollege - The Divine Conspiracy](#)

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

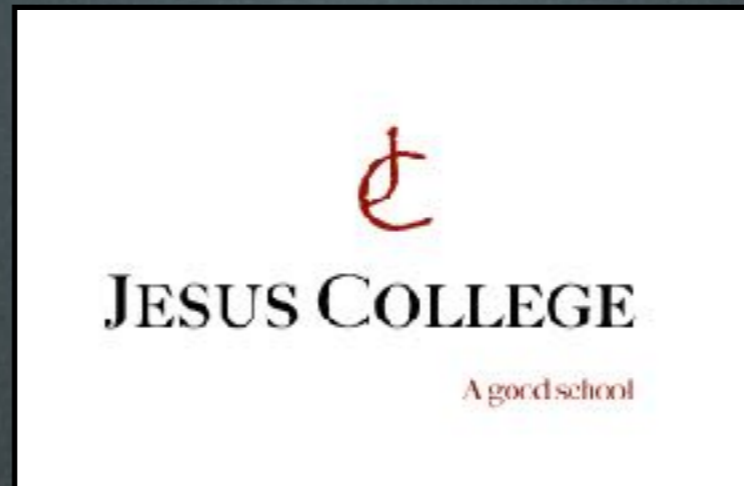
Doug



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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

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

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

The Vision of Jesus College - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

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