

## **“Sermon on the Mount & Discipleship”**

Dallas Willard at Wheaton 2/4 - Oct. 2001 [20:28]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPf7sbBhzlo&t=37s>

**Scribe's Comments** - *The session was typed from the YouTube (audio only) with good-faith effort but it is not verbatim. The [brackets] & **bold** disclose the scribe's commentary and also cross-references to other Dallas Willard teachings.*

[See other Dallas Willard teachings on the “Sermon on the Mount”

“Sermon on the Mount”, Gordon Conwell

“The Divine Conspiracy” 12 part lecture, Harvey Fellows Institute, 2007]

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### **I. Summarize last time: We talked about “Discipleship”**

[previous teaching - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=womyJzd7gXA&t=36s>]

We're talking about leading a kind of life that is not whistling in the dark, it is **Reality** - We have to understand that to learn from Jesus in His teaching and presence is He deals with reality, He doesn't deal in words. The Spirit works with truth before the mind and solicits by the force of truth. That's because we are free beings and we have a will. God will not override that but He will solicit it.

When we think about the teachings of Jesus, as Jesus disciple, I am learning how to lead my life how He would lead it if He were me.

It's very important to be the emphasis on my life. I think...

### **“How would Jesus do this?”**

That's the only way we can be His apprentices. We think He doesn't know anything about my life.

My conscientiously chosen aim as His disciple, is to learn this and I am constantly arranging my affairs to realize this goal.

When I go in the door, I have no idea what's in lies ahead of me. I don't know what I have to learn, what I need to know. Not all the lessons are taught at the front door. As I go along, I learn the things I bring them under his direction and stewardship.

My most important identity is as a disciple of Christ. As a disciple of Him, I not only trust Him, I am proud of Him, I admire Him.

*“What do you think of the Christ?”*

Do you think He is competent over the things that concern you?

It often comes as a shock to some of my colleagues but we need to understand that Jesus is the smartest person who ever lived. He knows more about those things that concern you. If you don't understand that, you'll be a disciple of someone else you think is smarter than Jesus. It doesn't matter if it is Slavic Literature or Chemistry.

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You need to look into your own understanding of Christ and think, “How do I think about Him?” Who is smarter than Jesus? How do I really think about Him? If only you think He is the most competent person in every field, you will follow Him.

How do you get there? By discipleship to Jesus. You don’t get there just by attending church or small groups. That may be fine if it is subordinated to your overall discipleship. That’s a summary of what I said last time I spoke to you.

### **II. Learning How to be a Disciple**

**Colossians 3:17** - *“Whatsoever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

That means on behalf of him, in His wisdom, in His power, as His apprentice. *“Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

How many things does that leave out?

We are learning as Jesus’ apprentices how to do that.

Discipleship is not a religious thing, it’s a life thing. This is not an admonition of checking of a list. The way of Christ is to walk with you and teach you in such a way that you do that without thinking about it.

You do that because that’s your identity, that’s who you are.

You act out of who you are.

### **The Details: The Heart that Jesus Gives Us The Sermon on the Mount**

[9:45]

Sermon on the Mount - Where Jesus spells out the details of who we are, what kind of people we become.

*“A good tree can not bring about bad fruit.”*

This is a way of saying that the inner nature of the tree is what determines what kind of fruit.

Our transformation is to be the one where the Fruit of the Spirit are not actions, they are conditions of the heart.

**Matthew 5:20** - The Secret of Moral Transformation the World can not give

*“Unless you go beyond the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees you can’t not enter the Kingdom of God.”*

You can’t enter a vital, life giving, relationship with God.

You have to go beyond the level of action to the level of the heart. Not what you do, but what you would do.

\* Thief - not one who steals but someone who would steal.

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That’s beyond the righteousness of the scribes & pharisees. Not become more legalistic than they are. It means become on the inside the kind of person who will naturally manifest what is good and right.

~ “Contempt & Anger” (v. 21ff)

The old law says don’t kill. Why do people kill others? Almost always because of anger.

Many people who are willing to give up killing are not willing to give up anger & contempt which results in killing.

We have a real problem with anger. Anger is not a sin. It’s like a headache. It means something is wrong.

Anger - the will to hurt another and you will rejoice if they are hurt.

It’s a “will phenomena”. Where the will is frustrated, anger results. It doesn’t matter how trivial it is.

If you are living in the Kingdom of God richly, and you know that God is taking care of you, the most serious of things that happen to you may not make you angry because your will is not frustrated, there is no point of being angry.

It is when the old self is on the throne.

\* Bumper Sticker - “Yes, I do own the road!”

Road rage comes out of the frustration of the will.

~ Freedom from domination of sexual lust and disgust

~ Freedom from swearing - the song and the dance you do to get people to believe things you’re pretty sure they won’t believe if you don’t do this., invoking God to back up your claims

He’s not talking about not performing an action. He is talking about becoming the kind of person who would not do it.

The kind of person who would not use language to get you to do what they want you to do - manipulate.

\* “Spin Doctors” - someone who is very good at letting a Yes be a No, and a No be a Yes. They put a different face on things.

Jesus comes to us with a very simple teaching. He is the most profound the world has ever seen.

He is going to the heart and he teaches in a very orderly manner. He is reaching the heart and talking about changing what happens there.

You will see the truth is this:

If you want to be a good person, you don’t try to do what He said.

You try to become the kind of person who would naturally do what He said without thinking about it. He is interested in the heart. God is looking

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for people who will worship Him in spirit & truth. That’s on the inside, that’s the heart. Discipleship to Jesus changes the heart of the disciple. All of His teachings lead to that.

What He gives us is not laws but illustrations of what the transformed heart will do.

~ “Turning the Other Cheek”

[18:45]

**Law Approach** - Take His teachings as laws,

If you are a person full of anger,

*“I will turn the other cheek, then I will knock your head off.”*

That’s the Law approach.

**Heart Approach** - I will remain vulnerable. I will not cut myself off from you and see where it goes from here.

This person is alive in the Kingdom of God. They have stepped beyond the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees which draws the line at the action and moved into the domain of the heart where they are alive in the Kingdom of God.

**Closing Prayer**

[19:30]

~ ~ ~ **End of Session @ 20:28** ~ ~ ~