

The Broken Body and Its Social World: Healing the Family and Its Wounds

Series: Healing the Heart and Life by Walking with Jesus Christ Daily, Session 4

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Transcript

Dallas Willard 00:00

Welcome back to the series, we are talking about the healing of the life by walking with Jesus Christ and how that goes, what we want to understand the reality of it. And my hope is that as we go along, you will increasingly slip into that reality and that you will find the power of, of Christ's presence with you, in everything that you do. That's, that's what that's the intent, you know. And when we try to live it on our own, we make a mess of it. And we weren't made to be like that. We're going to talk about that a bit tonight. But we tonight, we want to talk about the body, and about our social relationships.

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And we've, we've talked a good deal about the placing the mind and then last week, the feelings. And we, because of the possibility of misunderstanding, we always need to add that we don't go this alone, that what we do in these areas is always a work of grace. And I want to just state what grace is. Grace is God acting in our lives. That's grace. It's God acting in our lives. Now see You may think, well, but it's unmerited favor, it's been unmerited favor. But if that's all you say, you don't know what it is. Practically, it's God acting in our lives. And then we have talked about our mind and the need to fill our mind with God, and to bring ourselves into the place of worship, and I so appreciate Sally's leading that song. Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down. See, we can live there. That's what we're talking about, we can live there. And it won't diminish our capacities to drive our car, or to do other actually, we will do better. And if we just learn to live with that attitude of worship, then these parts here that we have looked at and want to hold it before you is we work through all of these areas, because it is by working through these areas with grace. Learning how to keep God present in our minds, experiencing the reality and the feelings of love and joy and peace and hope and faith. That's what transforms us inwardly. So then, in a way that we need to understand is just really easy. Worship becomes natural. See the mind and the feelings are focused on the greatness of God. And that's where we learn to live is in the greatness of God. And then the teaching that I'm with you always The Lord is my helper, I shall not fear what man will do unto me if they come and cut my throat, that's so you have to go all the way here and turn it loose. You can't keep hanging on. You have to turn it loose.

Dallas Willard 04:05

Say we had we believe that God will be constantly with this pastor and his children and that. The lady who was murdered is far better off now than she's ever been before. And that's kind of thing you know, you just sort of have to stop and gasp a bit before you say it. Because we were not brought up in that world. You know, we're not formed in that world.

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Worship is the intense focusing of a surrendered will with the mind and feelings on the greatness of God. See that center part there. And then next time I want to talk about the soul, and will together because people have a lot of hard and they have a hard time understanding that. And so we'll come back to that. But the center here you see, that's what now we're going to move out. Because the body and the social realm is where we actually live.

Dallas Willard 05:24

See, and we want to take that worship, there. In the midst of worship, we stand secure against sin and evil. That place where we stand, and worship is the most powerful discipline of all in the moment. You cannot be in rebellion against God, or you cannot allow yourself to go against God when you stand in His presence. And you can even say that, when we are able to do that, it's always because we have turned to something less. And our feelings and our mind are responding to something less.

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I love these words from the book of Revelation. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and might and honor, and glory and blessing. And every created thing which is in heaven and on earth, and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them. I heard saying to Him who sits on the throne into the lamb, be blessing on her glory and dominion forever and ever. That's worship. And when you stand there, all evil is defeated in your life.

Dallas Willard 06:59

Tozer uses the words to describe worship, astonished reverence, admiration, to the point of wonder and delight. You know, that's, that's really what we've been talking about here, thus far. And now we can learn to live there. And just to touch once more on last week's lesson, you remember Paul saying, I've learned to be content no matter what. Guess how you do that? Learning to live with your mind full of God. And that is something that God makes available to us, we can actually do then.

Dallas Willard 07:54

Just a little story of how that works is true story. It's about a nurse. And you know, nurses have to take care of people when they are in pretty bad shape. They're not attractive. And this nurse was known in the hospital where she worked for being able to lovingly and joyfully care for people who from a human point of view, were just very repulsive in the way they looked and what they were suffering. And that's, that happens. And I worked as an orderly, whatever you call it, in a hospital, when I was in college for a while. And it was actually very good for me. And this nurse was known for her ability to joyfully take care of people and bless them and and they said to her, how do you do it? And she said, something very simple, just, but it's about the mind and the feeling. She said, when I look at someone like this, and I'm caring for them, I always remember that they were somebody's baby.

Dallas Willard**Dallas Willard** 09:07

Now see, that was a choice on her part. That's what I'm illustrating. She had learned how to do that. Now that's not exactly the same as worship. But she had a view of life that allowed her to do that. You see, you have to have a larger view of life if you're going to do that kind of thing. Sister, Mother Teresa of Calcutta always required of her sisters, that they be able to smile and that goes very deep. You see? Very deep and if you're going to bring hope to people. It's hard to do it like sad sack you know? I mean, you need to have joy And that is possible. So, I hope we're up to that now.

Dallas Willard 10:08

And the Psalmist, I'm gonna give you a few passages from the psalm, we can't work through them all tonight. But this is a wonderful statement, Whom have I in heaven, but thee. And besides thee I desire nothing on earth, my heart, my flesh, and my heart may fail, I can't even rely on myself. Now, remember, the flesh are the natural human abilities, they aren't, it isn't bad in itself, we got to talk about that more tonight. But it's your natural human abilities, your heart, the very center of your will, your will may fail. But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. That word portion is used a great deal in scripture, I give you some other passages here to look at there on your sheet. And I encourage you to use them in meditation. But to say the Lord is my portion is just to say the Lord is what I've got. That's what that means. And the Lord is my portion, the Lord is what I've got. And thinking that through and learning to live out who that you see is what enables us to go on but now.

Dallas Willard 11:31

Now tonight, we want to look at the body and our relationship to others. And in our life, these always go together, the body is essentially social. In a human being, and relation, social relations are essentially bodily. I can't, I can't just say I'm going to relate to you spiritually, because it is what is in my body, that will come out in that relationship. And if it's not in my body, I ain't got it. Yet. And so, it's not easy to talk about this, because we're not used to dealing with this. But we just have to understand the centrality of the body to redemption. And the body is the primary instrument of evangelization, for example, it's what I bring in my body. And often, you have people who, what they bring in their body contradicts what they say. We have this phrase body language, it's very deep, the idea of body language, the idea of the body as speaking my eyebrows, my shoulders, the way I turn, the way I walk, are all expressions of who I am, of who I am. And the interesting thing here is, of course, the you can't, you can't fake body language. You can't do it. If you're trying to it turns out not to be body language, it turns out to be a project of some sort. No, because our body really speaks. And then also in our social relationships, we have to recognize that the real relationships are more open than we dare imagine sometimes. And we do read one another pretty thoroughly, and pretty well. And that's built into the need, we have to really know one another. And, and unfortunately, the sad state of many of our personal relationships and the way we interact with people. See, that's, that's a reflection of who we really are.

Dallas Willard 14:07

So here we have to change way down deep. And just to see how we're doing with this. Let me read you a couple of passages here and ask you a question. First Peter 2, therefore putting aside all

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malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy, and all slander. Like newborn babies long for the pure milk of the word. Here's another passage from Ephesians. Wonderful Ephesians four. And here Paul says that all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice And be kind to one another. tender hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ has forgiven you. Now, here's the question. And this is just to kind of check us out and make sure we're on track here with? What is the mistake I'm most likely to make when I hear that? Just think about a moment. What is the mistake that I am most likely to make? Then think about what we've covered now thus far in the series. When I hear that say that again.

Audience Member 15:38

That I can do those things on my own.

Dallas Willard 15:40

Well, that's right. And even just doing those things. Just doing those things, and Mary, it's much worse if we try it on our own.

Audience Member 15:53

I know

Dallas Willard 15:54

I see this is an old friend of mine, a young friend of mine, Mary nap. I taught her how to drive. She almost killed us.

Dallas Willard 16:15

But that said, you see, okay, I'm gonna lay aside malice. Now, malice is just the intent to harm, that's all it is, is malice isn't gonna lay aside, malice you see that mistake there is focusing on the action. Now, sometimes we have to take action with reference to actions and do something about them. But that's never the solution. The solution is, for me not to be a malicious person. See, I want to become the kind of person for whom malice would be unnatural. Mentioned slander, see the same thing, or a weakened version of slander is gossip. So now, I want to go through the process. Now, here's what's apt to happen in that process. And this is where the body comes in.

Dallas Willard 17:21

This world that we come into as children is already moving and flowing in the wrong direction. And we are picked up in it. Now, that is not in itself a bad idea. That's God's plan that it should be like that. It's just that when evil inhabits that world, then I pick that stuff up just by being there, and it becomes something I am ready to do without thinking. Now think a little bit about our body, and think about what it is. And I don't want to get too philosophical here. But you have to understand that body is potential energy, that's what it is. It's potential energy. And that's true of every body. And if you are into, into, into physics, you can explore that in greater depth. But your body is potential energy for your action. Think of it like this, your body is your little power pack. Your little Energizer thing. And it what distinguishes it from other bodies is that it is immediately available for you to act from. And that's the center of your kingdom, or queendom. That's the center. That's

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where you start from. And that's a good thing again. And the body is made for the Lord, not for you. And I know that that's not popular to say but you don't own your body. You're not the Lord of your body. Your body was made to be inhabited by God. And that actually is the only way it will work. And it needs to live in a world where there are others inhabited by God as well.

Dallas Willard 19:45

So this talk about being a temple, you see that? You want to take that very literally and if you do then you will begin to experience your body in a different way. Unfortunately, it's degraded by sin. And when we look at this passage in Romans 1:26, and 27, you see the outcome of that. When we turn away from God, we invariably turn to our body. And that's why sex and violence runs so deep in human culture. See, those are fundamentally bodily things. And Romans one is a story about the development of sensuality, in world history, and it isn't like, it's just one story, because it happens over and over and over again, happens also to individuals.

Dallas Willard 20:40

Sensuality is incredibly destructive. And when you give into it, and you say, you can rule my life, then you are on a ground where you can't win, because sensuality is unlimited. And so you just push it more and more and more and more. And it isn't self limiting. And if you give into it, you will be addicted to it. And in fact, the addict is a person who has surrendered their will, to feelings. They have said to their feelings, you may rule me. Now, I know there are a lot of subtleties about all of this. But I just, that's, that's how addiction works. That's why for example, you will find some people who can go cold turkey off of heroin. And then you find others that are defeated by coffee, or Twinkies or something like that. Because that person who can do that is one who stands and says I will not relent to my feelings. Let them come as strong as they will, I will not. And now, those are the colorful cases. But you see feelings come in many forms we talked about many of them last time. And we always have to take that stand, you see, because away from God, our body is degraded by giving into his feelings. And many times that happens because we don't take good care of our bodies and respect them and put them to their proper use, which is to serve the Lord.

Dallas Willard 22:42

So a large part of what it means for us to be dead in trespasses and sin is to be enslaved to our bodies. And I'm hoping that you can just sort of think about the general cultural situation, and see how people respond to their bodies. And try to manage it and manipulate it. I mean, all the way from power dressing, you know about power dressing. Well, that's a very real thing. It's very interesting. But I watch it all the time. In the circles that I go in the people who they come with their power suits, because there's going to be a meeting. And they don't want to be down in the pecking order because they're not dressed with their power suits. And I see ladies and men both, they're caught in that same sort of thing. I'm not necessarily saying it's wrong, but I hope you've got more to trust than your power dressing. And, but that's just illustration, you see, we put the body up front and to and use it to a ways to get our way and that degrades it in sin. Now. If you have time to meditate on these passages, it'll help a lot before it kind of grows dim in your mind. But read Romans One all the way through and watch how that works.

Dallas Willard**Dallas Willard 24:09**

Now the quickening that comes when we turn our will to God and are born again. See that reaches to our body also. And and and this passage I do want to read to you because I want you to have hope about it and I'm going to do a good bit with it tonight. Anyway.

Dallas Willard 24:33

So here's Romans eight. However, he says those who are Romans eight eight, verse eight and following, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Now, does that mean you ought to commit suicide? to please God? No. To be in the flesh means to live in terms of the body. That's what it means to live in terms of the body. And if you're living in terms of the body, you can't please God, because you haven't put him in the right place in your life. Okay, now watch. However, you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, He does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. Okay, so now you've got a new force, other than your natural bodily abilities, and energies, and those are working, you have a new force. And if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. to your mortal bodies, it will be something that you will know because your body is different. And the potential energy that becomes available to you is not just the natural abilities of your body. But now there is a power at work in you. to quicken that body, Quicken means to give it life. So, Quicken means to add a new life. And life is a kind of an activity that is self sustaining self-directing self-initiating. So now there's something moving in you, and it moves your body, your body becomes different, as your indwelt as the temple of God. Now, the body, in its role as your powerpack is something that God created, it's an arrangement that he's made. And he set it up in such a way that as you live, your character and your experience becomes a part of your body.

Dallas Willard 27:10

And, and simple cases of that are things like learning to write, do you remember when you were learning to write your letters in school, you remember how hard it was? And you would just and then after a while, you didn't even think about it. See, and that's the wonder of being an embodied being, as God created you is that you don't have to think about everything you do. Now, that's good, when it's good, and it's bad when it's bad. Because then this is a major part of our difficulty, when our character and experience is not good then evil acts automatically, are in our bodies, and our bodies together in society. And so this is the condition that we have to deal with. And that's why so much of human life seems like it's out of control. It is.

Dallas Willard 28:14

And, indeed, human government is normally impossible, to any great extent just because of the evil that is present in human life. And that's what Paul means when he says the body is dead because of sin, as I just read it, the body is dead, because it's cut off from the only life that when I would enable the body to actually work as it should. So now note the difference between sin and sins. Sin dwells in our body and in the automatic tendencies of the social setting out you ever wind up walking into a situation where people are and and it's like stepping into a rapid stream and it's going

in somewhere you don't want to go and and you are you may be swept away by it and you may come out as situation feeling like you had your head stuck in the toilet, or something. You know, that's right, isn't it? Because our body is cued to the things that other people are doing and saying and their body language and all of that. And it just seems like it's you're being swept along. That's the normal course of things. And when anger and wrath and all of these things get going then people just go crazy. And it's not just that we are wrong. We are wrung. Right The first night, if you remember, this mic didn't work. And we found out afterwards that something back here had been unhooked. And so we had to use that mic. Well, that's fine. But you see, that's the way we are in our bodies. And in our social situations, there's certain connections that are not there. And there are other connections that are there and shouldn't be there. And as a result of that, then what comes out ind action comes out before we think about it. Now, that's a serious problem, folks.

Dallas Willard 30:48

As we, as we used to say, I don't think they say it anymore, but we used to say we're overdriving our headlights, you know what that means? That means that you're driving so fast, that you can't see where you would be by the time you could stop. And we're constantly doing that in life. And that's in our bodies that's in our social situations, and far beyond what any of our unredeemed character and intentions can mention.

Dallas Willard 31:27

Now, we need to look at Romans seven here, because this is something that really causes people a lot of trouble. And in Romans seven, in the passage that's indicated here is 15. And following, Paul is talking about the conflict that was going on in him when he was unredeemed. Now, that's a big step to say that because there are many people today, many devout Christians, who say you never get out of Romans seven. That that's where you live until you die. The way you get out of Romans seven is through the funeral home. And I don't think for a moment that Paul is saying that, but Paul is describing a very real experience. Listen to his language here. Verse 15, that which I am doing, I don't understand for I'm not practicing what I would like to do. But I am doing the very thing I hate. Now, that is a common situation for people who have not learned how to be, for example, I mean, I've done that. I've done that. You get into family quarrel. Your kids irritate you or something. And pretty soon you're saying things that you hate. You don't hate them when you say them. You kind of like them when you say. But that's the problem. See? And I mean, has all kinds of forms that need not just be with sin it I mean, it can be with all sorts of things like maybe spending more on something than you intended to all all kinds of dimensions of doing the thing that I intended not to do the things, the old version, the things I would that I do not and the things I would not that I do. Now, that's why was that happening? What what made Paul behave in that way? Well, he says, verse 17, no longer am I the one doing it. But sin which indwells me. And if we don't get anything else done tonight, I really would like for us to go away understanding that. What is this sin which indwells me? Well, it isn't your body, in the sense of just your body. It isn't your flesh as a natural thing that God has created. Not talking about that. Among other things, it's not talking about sexual desire. See, this is often all thrown over in that bucket. We have really problems with that and, and that's why for example, the language for sexual union, which I will not repeat, but you know, we use it as a term of degradation. It is a terrible thing that Satan and history and choice has done to this

isn't not talking about that. It's not talking about loving food. Not even talking about loving a good nap. Or you know those things, good clothes, not talking about that. See we get this so messed up. It's like misunderstanding the cross. Peter Cartwright's, an old Methodist preacher of years ago, preached on taking your cross and following the Lord. And after that he was writing to his next engagement and saw one of the people that was in the meeting. Not a large man carrying his wife who was large on his back. See, the cross is not the stuff you don't like.

Dallas Willard 36:01

And the sin that is in Paul's members are not his desires. It's rather the habits that his body has taken on. So that it runs on its own. And that's why he says, and he's not ducking the charge when he says he says, It's not me. It's not me. It's sin that dwells in me. And I'll tell you, folks, that is one of the most important verses to understand when you're dealing with problems of doing what you don't want to do. You have to have your identity to stand somewhere else and say that is not me. And if you don't have that, it will probably beat you completely to death. The young people struggling with sexual temptation and so on, often are defeated by the they can't get out of the picture. This is really me and I'm disgusted with this and I hate myself. No, you have to stand where Paul stood and say, This is not me. I have a different identity. And when you do that, then you can begin to escape from the law of sin which is in my members. The law of sin, there just means the regularity. You could you wouldn't go wrong to translate it in that passage, the habit. And see that's what resides in the body are the habits and they out run our intentions. Then deliverance comes through the spirit that comes to live in our bodies. And we identify with that. And you say, Well, how can I am I just being evasive? No, that's where grace comes in. You see. That's grace enables you to say, I've have a life that's different than this. And I can stand in that life.

Dallas Willard 38:13

And Paul does not live in Romans seven, he lives in Romans eight. There is therefore no condemnation to them, that are in Christ Jesus, who walked not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. What the law could not do and that it was weak through the flesh, God did. God did what a wonderful statement. That's where we had to live. God did. That the righteousness of the law should be fulfilled, in we who walked not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. After that's in terms of is better in terms of is better and then he goes on to the wonderful contrast between the mind of the flesh and the mind of the Spirit. And see that was Paul's understanding.

Dallas Willard 39:09

Another passage from Galatians six where he's talking about They that sow to the spirit, shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life. He's not talking about going to heaven, when you die, that will take care of itself. He's talking about the kind of life that is in God will increasingly come back as you sow to it and count on it. If you sow to the flesh, nothing will come of it good. Live in terms of the flesh is what he's talking about.

Dallas Willard 39:41

Now, one of the most instructive things that we can learn about growing and healing brokenness is

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in this case of Jesus teaching Peter and the other disciples before his death and Do you remember that he said, I'm going to be killed. And he said, one of you is going to betray me. And they all just went into paroxysms of denial. And no, we're not, we'll die with you and so on. And they meant it. They meant it. Give them that, okay. Right.

Dallas Willard 40:29

That's what Jesus meant in the garden, when he said to his three closest friends, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Remember that? Now that's diagnostic. He's not scolding them. You know, he's not saying if you had the sense, God gave a goose, he would stay awake. Without scolding, he's teaching. He's teaching. And that teaching began back with Peter and the others in the in the upper room. And Peter said, I will, I will die for you. And Jesus looked at it and said, you know, before the cock crows, you're going to deny me three times. Well, of course, Peter said, he denied that. But you see, Jesus knew. And Jesus knew that sin is deeper than sins. And it is not sin. It is sin, not sins that must be dealt with in healing of the broken life by walking with Jesus. Okay. And sin is that condition of readiness, of the socialized, embodied person to do what is wrong. And you can't overcome it by intentions. You have to receive redemption into the body and into the social relations at a much deeper level. If you're going to overcome it at all.

Dallas Willard 42:16

Now, is that okay? Do you understand what I'm saying there? And just think of Peter, see, put it like this. Peter didn't have to think about it to deny. Right? I mean, when the little girl said, Your One, he didn't have say, Now what shall I do? It just went like that. And he wasn't in a position to think about not denying if he had of been I mean, he had real problems with this, you know, because, I mean, you would think the second time around. He would have experienced a little having been here before sort of feeling. But he didn't. Now why didn't do well again, because the social situation and his body. Now, please think about this, because this is the way to deliverance. It is the inner change that results in someone being aware, knowing what's going on, without having to think a lot about it. And being prepared to do what is right automatically.

Dallas Willard 43:44

So I'm afraid you may not have heard that sort of thing before. So I'm just gonna say it again. What we're talking about here is the transformation of the person internally, so that they are prepared to do what is right automatically, whatever the social situation is, and whatever their condition their body is ready to go in the right direction. And Peter, illustrates the wrong way, Jesus, the right way.

Dallas Willard 44:16

So right after they're done in the upper room, and they're leaving, there's this wonderful statement in John 14:30. Jesus says, Now guys, I know gotta be able to talk with you much now. Because I have business to take care of the prince of this world, the ruler of this world is coming at me. And he has nothing in me. Nothing in me. Do you know that verse, you know that verse, Do think about it, because it's extremely profound See, that is if Peter had been able to say that, then he would'nt have denied Him. But you see, it's the it's the wrong or the wrung that is already in us. And in our bodies and in our social situation, that makes us susceptible. And that's what we want to get out.

Dallas Willard 45:24

I get such interesting and touching emails. And many of them are about just what we're talking about, namely, having something going in their bodies, that they just cannot, they just cannot deal with. I received a one sometime back. And and you know, I'm sorry, this is about sexuality, I get it. So talk too much about it. But the truth of the matter is, that's just right there. And this was a minister. And he was having a terrible time with sexuality after his Sunday services. Now I know enough about this situation, know why that was happening. And it had to do with how he felt about his work as a minister, and how he felt about his life. And shall we say that his work as a minister was not really a joyous occasion. And so he felt himself stretched and pulled and torn by that. And then, after it was over, there was a moment of relief. But it was a moment in which the habits of his body see that, you know, we know now that pornographic stuff and so on actually changes your brain. And I wanted to mention that because I want to just say, You see, our body is much more plastic than we normally think it is. And that's hopeful if we are looking at him, whose Spirit dwells in us, and can Quicken also our mortal body.

Dallas Willard 47:22

You see that it's the, it's the picture of our world, and our body and who we are in it, and what's happening, that makes us maybe hopeless, and makes us grasp for something, it might just be the deliciousness of dissecting someone with our tongue. You know, that's that. See, that's addictive, too. That's because that has what it has to do there is the person who gossips is experiencing a feeling of superiority and intimacy. That's the power of gossip, it is superiority, and intimacy. And check it out, you know, I mean, check out all this stuff, I'm telling you, okay, because we got to live real life. And often there is envy built into it, or covetousness. Or just malice, because things get more and more complicated. And to just be able to step free from that, you see, that's something that we can do. But until we learn about the removal of all that's inside, so like Jesus, we say, that's just, there's nothing in me that that appeals to. See that's where I want to get I want to get to a place where there is nothing in me that the delicious opportunity to contemptuously dissect someone. Maybe because I think they don't like me. Or maybe they don't appreciate me, you see. So that just isn't in there.

Dallas Willard 49:10

And that's what Paul is talking about when he when he talks about mortifying, mortify, mortify means to kill off. See a mortgage, you know what a mortgage is a mortgage is something you kill off by degrees, Mort, Gage, see? And then you take it out and burn it and say hallelujah. And see mortification is a primary part of the spiritual life in the New Testament, and that means that we allow the things that are wrong in us to wither and die. And Paul says in Romans 8:13 If you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live. Now he's not talking about the deeds of the body in the natural sense, but the deeds of the body that is saturated in the wrong stuff and living out here in a social world where there's so much in you, and people can just come by and grab you, and make you dance like a puppet on a string because of what's in you. And, of course, that often goes back to the way we were treated, or other that other children treated us in grade school or younger. And that's where the habits all come from. Let's see, Jesus understood this, I remember the circle diagram, you see, there wasn't, Jesus had those circles too. And there wasn't

anything in those circles, that Satan could get a hold of, not a thing. And he tried the best he could.

Dallas Willard 51:00

And he came to the garden and tried to kill him in the garden, to keep him from going to the cross. And the great triumph of Jesus in the garden was that he made it to the cross. He wasn't trying to avoid the cross. He's trying to get there, Satan was trying to stop him. Because he knew the plan. The plan was, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me. And Satan's last chance to stop him.

Dallas Willard 51:32

Now, let's just talk a little bit about the social side specifically. And I have separate chapters on all of these things in the book on renovation of the heart, and I'm not trying to sell books, I don't do that. But you know, there's so little that you can get said in the time that you have and so you're counting on the Holy Spirit to take what's needed. And here we want to understand there are really two primary forms of lovelessness. And iniquity in social situations. And these are, attack and withdrawal. attack can be a lot of things, for example to be preying on someone, you know, like, when someone is trying to seduce someone or swindle them out of their money, or whatever it is, that's an attack. That's an attack. Or it may just be some sort of frontal assault, bad names, undermining, it can be physical. That's all in that category, and then withdrawal. Those are the two forms of sin in social relations. And you think of all of our social problems, you'll see that's where they are. And we talk about the terrible things that happen between groups, whether it's religion, or race, or whatever it is. They all fall in it right in here. Attack and withdrawal. Withdrawal means I'm distancing myself from you.

Dallas Willard 53:11

The story of the Good Samaritan illustrates both right? I mean, that's what that story is about. A man is going down from Jericho from Jerusalem, and he has set upon by thieves that's attack. And then there comes a Levite and the priest, and what do they do? They withdraw. Some silly person said, when they saw he had already been robbed, they went by on the other side, that their heart was not with him. And the one thing that distinguishes the Samaritan was not what he did. He had compassion on him. He had compassion. See, that's the opposite of withdrawal. And now we need to be aware of that. And we will experience it we have experienced it, there are all sorts of I mean, our social world is set up with patterns of withdrawal, who you have to do with and who not. And we need to recognize those and not participate in them. Of course, we need to recognize them when it's coming at us attack and withdrawal because if we don't, we will not be able to respond with compassion, because we won't know what is happening and we will be drawn into it. And they are going to withdraw from us. We will just withdraw from them. They're gonna attack us we just attack them. You know, you reject me and I say who needs you? Obviously I do. That's what I say.

Dallas Willard 54:59

Normal Social Relations show our bodies poised to attack and withdraw. You know, you may not be able to take this in or may not believe it. As we go through it here, just think about it folks just think about, think about it in all of our contexts. And then of course, think about the good times too because they're also we experience, not attack, but help and care, and not withdrawal, but people

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who are really able to be open and with us. But in the normal situation, it's a cold, cold world, folks. And just think of where contempt and anger and looking to lust and envy and resentment are located. It's right there in the body language. People don't have to think about it to do it. It's what we do without thinking.

Dallas Willard 55:59

And now we can we have that last point there. If our God is our belly, that is our feelings. And that's the normal case. You think about this phrase, having your feelings hurt, you know that one? And it's so touchingly human isn't it? You know, and little children begin to experience that and so on. Well, we have to be able to stand somewhere to rise above that. And that's the place of worship and adoration and obedience.

Dallas Willard 56:42

And we learn then to turn it around so that our belly is a source of living water. That's Jesus's words. out of their belly shall flow, what do you think that is? Well, that's compassion. That is receptivity. That's openness. And that's what we are looking for. As we grow in these areas of our body and social relations. It takes some doing it doesn't happen automatically. But what we learn to do is to not get on the conveyor belt to sin.

Dallas Willard 57:22

That's the way sin is it's like the buzzsaw is up here, that's sin, here's the conveyor belt. If you want to avoid the buzzsaw don't get on the belt. And sometimes, you know, like the old movies, you're tied up, and you're gagged. And you're on the belt and feel that way. But now, we don't have to do that.

Dallas Willard 57:46

You see, like, go back to Peter's case, what what do you think he might have done? If he had heard Jesus? Well, he would have said, Hey, this is about to happen. Right? This is about to happen. I'd better watch out. I'd better be conscious. So here comes a little girl and says, you're one of them. Instead of saying, but Peter should have said, Oh, I know what this is. Right? I know what this is. I ain't gonna go with it. But see, he was not in that position. He was on the conveyor belt. And he didn't know it. And he just stayed on there. People do that, don't they? I actually suspect I've done that. Instead of saying, Well, this terrible I did this terrible thing. There must be something about me. That led to that. I probably projected it on someone else. said something like, I know, I was contemptuous and angry but it's their fault. That's the way to stay on the conveyor belt. And now Peter, of course, finally figured it out. And when he when it came to him that he had done exactly what Jesus said he would do and exactly what he said. Then he went out and wept bitterly. Now what he went out and wept bitterly about was he realized who he was. He wasn't thinking, Oh, I did it. I missed the trick. No, he see he now he knows who he is. And that's where genuine repentance sets in is when we realize who we are. And then there's some hope And what happens is the old cues the sinning, are now cues to avoid it.

Dallas Willard**Dallas Willard 1:00:09**

And, like, who's Martha Stewart's friend that got her into all this trouble was on? You know, he was talking on one of the talk shows, and explaining how he did this thing that he knew better than doing. And it was an absolutely no explanation at all. I mean, what it amounted to is he just more or less blundered into it. And why didn't he realize that he was doing things wrong, they said, Well, I, I wasn't used to doing those things. And my, my people I employ, they took care of it for me, and here I am, and I'm doing this and I'm signing this duh what you know, and so many of our fallen people, when they get on television, to hold your attention till the commercial gets there. They just say the dumbest things imaginable. And while you know when you listen to them is there's no repentance in it. There's no repentance in it. And repentance is where I say I am the kind of person who does that sort of thing. And I am that kind of person. Because of the way I think and the way I feel and where I put my mind. And the fact that my body is so accustomed to doing that, that it overruns my headlights and does it before I have a chance to think about it.

Dallas Willard 1:01:39

Now these cues are very important, okay. So for example, if you're troubled with looking to lust, you know, the construction workers and all that sort of thing, we talked about that, or if you're troubled with that, the way you deal with it, is recognize that when you do it, you are following cues that have already showed up and said, Get ready. Or you're going to miss your chance. That's true of gossip. That's true of the financial guy. You see, there are indicators that come up, and you take those as cues to do something else. And if it's throw yourself in a Briar Patch, like Sint Benedict, we talked about that earlier. Probably that's pretty effective. And a few scratches would be not as bad as the injuries that will be made. If you don't do it. See what you recognize those cases, for example, contempt. Contempt doesn't just come like a shot out of a pistol. Anger doesn't either. All of these things, they come, you know, you can use something like she'll be coming around the mountain when she comes. They're coming around the mountain, you're gonna hear him coming. And when you hear him coming, that's the point to say, I'm not going there. I will not go there. And if you have to get down on your knees and pray in the middle of the hallway at work, do it. Whatever you have to do and actually doing that a few times will really reinforce your resolve to do good.

Dallas Willard 1:03:49

So now just quickly to conclude here assurance, preparing for all of that you see assurance that I'm not missing out by sending a we've talked about that you have to really have that settled. You have to have it settled, I'm not missing a thing. See, then that goes back to your mind. That has to be very clear. And the general form of temptation is always you're going to miss out on it. Uh huh. So yeah, that's what, that's what Satan said to Eve in the garden. Remember that? You're gonna miss out on something here. You can't trust God, to take care of that. And of course, there are many situations where we're suffering and we need help and all of that. And so it's very tempting.

Dallas Willard 1:04:37

Decide not to sin. Oh, oh, can I do that? Yes, you can. You can do that. And if you don't, you'll stay right where you are. You don't drift into holiness. You don't drift into it. It's why Jesus said, straight is the gate, narrow is the way. Give your best seek the Lord. See, you won't drift in. So you decide now,

Dallas Willard

that one, this one really causes us theological problems. And I'm sure I'm afraid a lot of things I've said in these nights has done that. But I mean, a lot of here's, oh, you're gonna be perfect. Well, what do you say in response to that? No, I'm gonna be imperfect. Praise the Lord.

Dallas Willard 1:05:30

So now, you know, don't go with the whole thing. Just settle on one thing. Like to take one of the one of the teachings of Paul, for example, in Colossians, three, don't lie to one another. You can, you can decide to stop. And you can learn how to do it. Now in order to learn how to do it, you have to recognize she'll be coming around a mountain when she comes. Because that's it always comes that way. See, I know what's going around the mountain, I'm gonna put a stop to that. And do whatever is necessary to do that.

Dallas Willard 1:06:13

Well, take care of your body. That's important, treat your body with respect and bless it. And that means having regard for its needs, and its possibilities. But it really, really is important to understand that the body is a holy thing. And that's why there's so much in the Scriptures about touching, and anointing, and laying on of hands. That's a that's a major teaching of the New Testament and we to our harm we don't understand that but see that presupposes that there's something in your body. And that that is of God. Now when you do that, then it will be easier for you to take care of it. You won't be using your body to ring the last ounce of whatever it is you're trying to get.

Dallas Willard 1:07:13

The wonderful passage in Ecclesiastes isn't where it says it is vain, to rise up early, and sit up late and eat the bread of sorrow. You know, that verse, it is vain, to rise up early and sit up late and eat the bread of sorrow. And how many of us do that? Just trying to grind more and more out of it. See, that's why the teaching of Sabbath is so important and being able to just put in your effort to trust God. Go lie down and sleep. You see that just say that in our culture is really to say something pretty big, because we really are suffering for this.

Dallas Willard 1:08:06

So training the body means not using it as a pleasure and power source to manage your kingdom or queendom. Your body is not yours, it is Gods. It's been bought means allowing more than adequate physical rest more than adequate. See that's one of the greatest challenges today is to trust God and go rest. And so heaping insult on injury means having times when you do nothing. You're caring for your body. When you do that. Your body is not built to grind out what you want. See you have to have given and that's the meaning of the cross is that you are not living for what you want. Practicing surrender of it to the Lord in worship, in service to others, and simply doing the right thing.

Dallas Willard 1:09:17

You don't you you don't continue to submit your members as Paul says in Romans six and seven, to evil you submit them to God grace shall not allow sin to rule over you. You submit your body to God.

Dallas Willard

Now when you do that then and that works into it and then when the occasion comes to do something that you don't you don't want to do, you will be able to view your body different and you'll say I don't allow my body to be involved in that, a social situation or whatever it is. Now Christian groups should help us. And in a Christian group, we should totally eliminate attack and withdrawal. Now, that doesn't mean you don't teach the truth, and you stand for what is right, you do that, but you don't attack people. That was Jesus's secret.

Dallas Willard 1:10:23

You know, Jesus said, I did not come into the world to condemn the world, we should have condemnation, totally removed from our Christian settings. And condemnation is not what we teach in truth. It's how we teach it. And condemnation always involves some element of contempt. And when that gets going in our families, or other wherever, that's just wildfire. And that's a form of attack and a form of distancing. In the same way, some of the things we can do dare to be really present to others before the Lord. When we're together. Don't hurry. listen more than you talk. Listening is a is a wonderful, wonderful thing to do, is to listen. But you see, one of the reasons why many of us can't listen is we're defending ourselves verbally. If we just stand there and don't say anything, then what's going to happen?

Dallas Willard 1:11:24

Listen. And that is one of the things that helps us in Christian groups really break the patterns of withdrawal and attack. Expect from the Lord, not from people. My faith is not in you or me, my faith is in God. And that is why I can be with you and not hurry. And I can listen. Because I'm not trying to run the show.

Dallas Willard 1:12:04

And Paul's wonderful statement here from Corinthians, I was determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And that meant primarily for Paul, that he was getting beyond his own expertise, and brilliance, and all of that, and he had plenty of it. And he said, I'm not going to approach these people in Corinth in terms of what I can get them to do. What I can convince them of I'm going to approach them in terms of what Christ will do in them as I am with them.

Dallas Willard 1:12:46

Christian groups have been said to be the only army that shoots its wounded. You've heard that when one comes among disciples of Jesus, two or three gathered in His name, the one thing they should be completely assured of is that they would not face attacks and distancing. And the one thing that your pastors should have is complete assurance of that, that they're not going to be attacked, and that their people are not going to distance themselves from them. And really, only if they have that assurance, can they begin to do the work of calling the group into that same sort of thing. I was with some pastors last two years ago in a retreat, and one man was having such a hard time. And the church was just working him over and in one meeting, and a little four or five year old daughter looked to her mommy and said, are they going to shoot daddy? I mean, the the degree of anger and hostility that characterizes so many people in Christian groups is heartbreaking.

Dallas Willard 1:14:08

And we just have to say, we're going to lay that down, we're not going to do them. In our group. There's no attack, there's no withdrawal. You have to work through things like if you don't agree with me, your attacking me. See so you're that's the teaching part. And say, No, I'm not agreeing with you, because I want to help you and minister to you, and then that will be manifested in your attitude. See we just have to get over the idea that one can be righteously mean. For God's sake, just have to get over it. This is a great grace. I must be learned through discipleship to Jesus constantly chosen and practiced under the leadership. And we'll say a little more about that time after next when we talk about some more practicalities.

Dallas Willard 1:15:11

And now, I want to leave you with this and ask you to think about meditating on First Corinthians 13. I tried to do it a couple of times, it's on your sheet, I've put a version on the sheet. If you don't like that one, get the one you like. But just meditate on it. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love. I am become like sounding brass, that's a gong, bong bong, or tinkling cymbal. That is to say, it may be pretty or impressive, but you don't know what's being said. Though I have the gift of prophecy, understand all knowledge, all mysteries and all knowledge. Though I have all faith so that I can move mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

Dallas Willard 1:16:14

Though give my body to be burned or give all my goods to the poor. They have not love. it profits me nothing. Just turn that over in your mind. Meditate. If you can memorize it, it'll be a great blessing to you. And then you can keep turning it over in your mind as you go about your business. Or do you have something better to do? And I just mentioned Frank Laubach here because he had what's called a game with minutes. And that was, he took everything that would seem to be dead space or wasted time, like standing in line or sitting in traffic or whatever. And he made that a time to turn his mind to God, to pray, to seek blessing for others, to fill that moment with God. And if you fill those spare moments with God, they will have a tremendous power in bringing your body into line with righteousness, and your social relationships will all look different. Thank you very much. And may God bless this teaching to you now. And next week. We do mainly on the soul. The soul is the deepest part of you. And we need to talk about that.