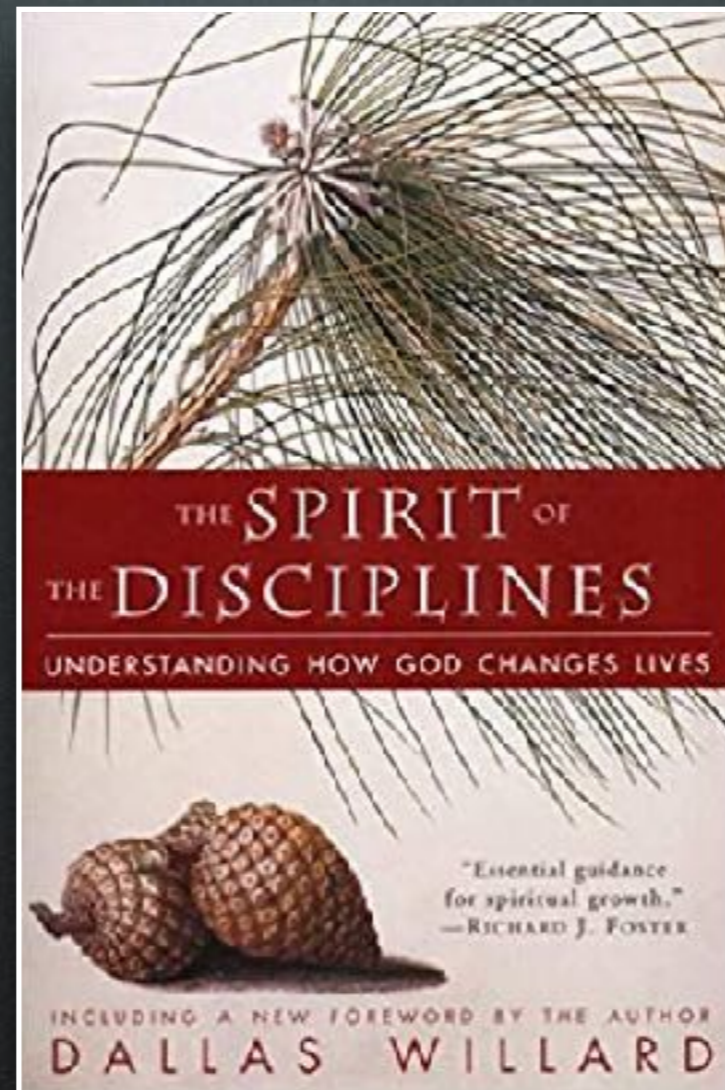


WELCOME to the final course session sponsored by  
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College





**The Spirit of the Disciplines**  
Session 11 - *“The Disciplines and the  
Power Structures of This World”*  
Book Chapter 11

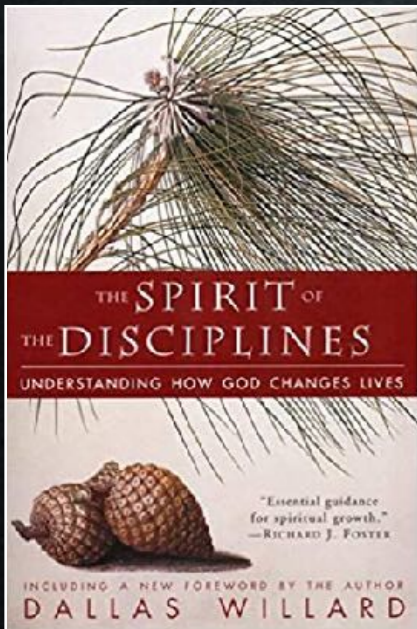




## Session 10 Review

A spiritual practice of stewardship and frugality is life in the easy yoke with Jesus through disciplined grace in a Kingdom understanding that transforms us from the possession of riches to the use of riches, be it our riches or those of a cheerfully generous follower of Jesus. The church exists to train up this kind of person.

*The secret of the easy yoke is to choose to live your life the way Jesus lived His life.*







“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”      Matthew 11:28-30



## CHAPTER 10 FLASHBACK

[The church's] fundamental work is to show how to enter into full participation in the rule of God where they are...to ultimately bring all nations to find a people who can form a world that is the unique dwelling place of the immortal God.

(218-219)





## Our Key Word — Christlikeness

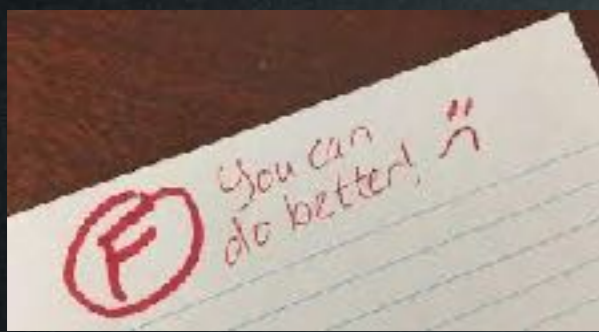
We cannot behave “on the spot” as He did and taught if in the rest of our time we live as everybody else does. The “on the spot” episodes are not the place where we can, even by the grace of God, redirect unchristlike but ingrained tendencies of action toward sudden Christlikeness.

Living the Sermon on the Mount is characteristic of Christlikeness...a new kind of person, one who intelligently and steadfastly seeks, above all else, to live:

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

(7-8)





## Chapter 11 - Power Structures

### The Failure of Unaccompanied Faith

Today we represent ourselves as a people of great practicality. This modern outlook sharply criticizes the Way of Christ as impractical in relation to the ideals of JUSTICE, PEACE, and PROSPERITY.

(220-221)

More often than not, faith has failed, sadly enough, to transform the human character of the masses, because it is usually unaccompanied by discipleship and by an overall discipline of life such as Christ Himself practiced. As he says in *Matthew 6:33*, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...”,

He understood instead that in this quest alone lay the true practicality, the only effective path to JUSTICE, PEACE, and PROSPERITY. (221)



## CHAPTER 7 FLASHBACK

### Paul the Philosopher

As a result of Paul's experience with Christ's Kingdom, Paul recaptured the ancient, prophetic vision of the world being governed by the people of God—governing through the light and power resident in them as God's earthly dwelling place. (127)

Only the Kingdom of God and its disciplines, taken in the following of Christ can...produce such people in sufficient number of "aristocracy of virtue and talent" (Th. Jefferson) to make decent and free government possible. (128)





# The Presence of Evil and Our Readiness to do Evil

Why such evil?

We wish to continue living as we now live.

We do not want to change.

We do not want our world to be different.

We just want to escape the consequences.



Because we are ready!

Highly flammable ever-present readiness — the simple readiness of “decent” individuals to harm others or allow harm to come to others when the conditions are “right”. (225)



“Vessel of wrath” Rom. 9:22 “Children of wrath” Eph. 2:8

*“All Hell breaks loose” if we are not protected by God’s care for us.*



## Three Levels of Power Structures

- 1** 1<sup>st</sup> Level – Systematic readiness that pervades the **personality** of normal, decent human beings is fallen human nature. (225)
- 2** 2<sup>nd</sup> Level – The magnitude of evil in human deeds is also a result of the **institutional structures** or common practices. This is our system. (229)
- 3** 3<sup>rd</sup> Level – The tyrants, **satanic forces** and oppressive practices of this world play upon our “merely decent” lives. (234)



*But none of this would continue to happen if the Ten Commandments and the two great principles of love of God and neighbor were generally observed. (229)*



Prevention from the “volcano of readiness”

† Common Grace of God

† Presence of the Holy Spirit

† The Institutionalized Church

We must then, change (“*ΜΕΤΑΝΟΙΑ*”) from within.  
And that is what most of us truly want...  
to really be different.

Peter was was overwhelmed by  
the “otherness” of Jesus. *Luke 5:1-11*



(227-228)



## The Power of Truth & Righteous Individuals

Individuals non-cooperation in individual evil<sup>3</sup> and structural evils<sup>3</sup> would transform the social<sup>2</sup>, political<sup>2</sup>, and personal<sup>1</sup> areas of our life almost beyond recognition. (230)

*Try picturing a world where lying does not exist.*

But the righteous can stop the wave before it starts, if they are stable in their righteousness, empowered by God, and distributed throughout society appropriately.

(231)

**1** Individual **2** Social Structures **3** Evil





## The Practical Problem

Is not ideology alone but long-cultivated resentments or hatred. They veil themselves as a feeling of blind duty. Keep the pot of hurt and evil constantly boiling. (232)

From the practical point of view, then, the radical problems concerning the power structures<sup>2</sup> of this world is how to transform normal human character away from its usual high level of readiness<sup>1</sup> to disregard God and harm others for the sake of our fear, pride, lust, greed, envy, and indifference. How can individual human beings<sup>1</sup> be brought to a place where the social structures<sup>2</sup> no longer expect them to do things that are wrong?

—> *Individual change is the answer.* (232-233)

**1** Individual

**2**

Social Structures



**2**

**1**

**1**

**2**



## The Illusion

3

The illusion — Social arrangements or religious experiences will draw off the evil<sup>3</sup> in the world at large.

Levels 1, 2 & 3 play upon our “merely descent” lives as a master organist dominates his or her instrument but is wholly powerless without it. (234)

3

The monstrous evils<sup>3</sup> are in fact the strict casual consequences of the spirit and behavior of “normal” human beings following generally acceptable patterns of life...not the result of strange flukes, accidental circumstances, or especially mad or bad individuals.

The highest education or the strictest doctrinal views and religious practice often leave untouched the heart of darkness. (234-235)



3

Evil



## Session 11 - *“The Disciplines and the Power Structures of This World”*

### **II. The Solution of Radical Treatment**

The Church — Generally speaking the church does not seem to be doing well in meeting the need at present. In first world countries, Christians simply do not advance very far into the health and strength of Christ. (235)

The Greatest Question — Can [the church] really present the world with a new humanity or is it only attractive for the moment because it seems to support certain traditional values that comfort a people bewildered and frightened about the future? (236)





## Radical Treatment

### *Radical Faith to Radical Discipline*

**K** The 4th Level of Power — The Kingdom Level

The Kingdom Invitation — Enter in to utter confidence in God's care and provision.

The Beatitudes — Categories of the un-blessables according to common human appraisal who are blessed because of relationship to God in His Kingdom.

*The Sufficiency of God*



(236)



## Radical Faith of Jesus

It is **in His faith alone** that we can find a basis from which **3** the evil<sup>3</sup> in human character and life can be dislodged.

We have one realistic hope for dealing with the world's<sup>2</sup> **2** problems. And that is **the person and gospel of Jesus**

**K** **Christ<sup>K</sup> living here and now**, in people who are His by total identification found through the spiritual disciplines.

WHY? This **faith** and discipline yields a new humanity<sup>1</sup> **1** one for which, *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”* or

*“Our Father who art in Heaven”* does not express a resolve,

**K** a hope, or a commitment, but a vision<sup>K</sup> in whose firm grip Jesus' people live with abandon. (237)

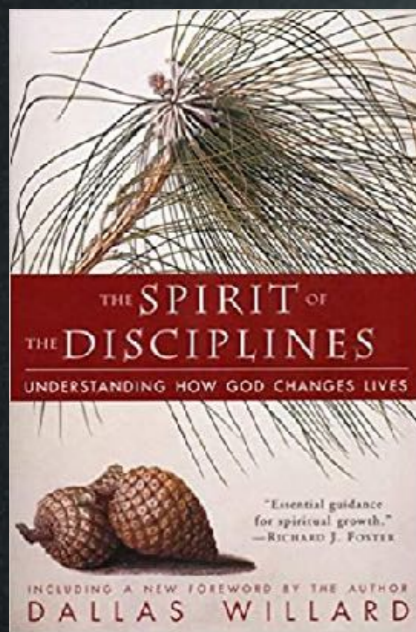
**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures

**3** Evil





*My personal charge to  
you fellow apprentices!*

## **“Radical Disease Requires Radical Treatment”**

In 17 years reading and studying over 19,000 pages of Dallas Willard’s writing, including 10 years reading *The Spirit of the Disciplines* three times and leading 5 groups through it, I conclude the 4 paragraphs on pages 236-237 are some of the most poignant, critical, divinely guided, powerful words you will learn from Jesus through Dallas about living in the Kingdom of God with the faith of Jesus Christ.



## Radical Discipline of Jesus

**K** Starting from this radical faith<sup>K</sup>, such individuals are capable of undertaking a course of life that will transform their character<sup>1</sup> and make them capable of bearing the wisdom and power of God throughout human society<sup>2</sup>. This is the future event we should keep in mind when learned people tell us that

**1** personal virtue<sup>1</sup> is not an answer to social ills<sup>2</sup>.



(237-238)

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures



*But how can the transition to Christ's  
reign through His people come to pass?*

**K** The coming rule of God<sup>K</sup> is to be a government<sup>2</sup> **2**  
by grace and truth mediated through personalities  
mature in Christ<sup>1</sup>. **1**

It will not be by force, but by the power of truth  
presented in overwhelming love (238)...demonstrated  
to the world<sup>2</sup> as the best way to live. (239) **2**

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures





# From Moses' 3-Level System to Jesus' System

Matthew 3:2 & 4:17 — “Kingdom of God at hand”

Justice can not prevail until there are enough people<sup>1</sup> properly equipped with Christ's character and power<sup>K</sup>, in something like the Mosaic distribution\* throughout society<sup>2</sup>, who cooperatively and under God constantly see to it that the good is secured and that the right is done. **1**

Is this possible? I don't believe it's a mere dream or a desperate delusion, once we understand how the disciplines mesh with grace, on the one hand, and embodied human personality<sup>1</sup> on the other. (241) **1**

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures

\* Judges:  $1 \times 10 + 1 \times 5 + 1 \times 2$





**K** “The kingdom of heaven is now available, turn to it it!”

Matthew 3:2 & 4:17

Now all humankind is invited to live in a family, made possibly by Our Father in Heaven, whom we address in prayer. When the gospel of this family Kingdom<sup>K</sup>

**K**

**1** people<sup>1</sup>, the end of human history as we are familiar with it, will occur for humankind who will fall under the effectual leadership of those<sup>1</sup> who stand in the

**1**

**K** Kingdom<sup>K</sup> and upon the Earth as judges<sup>2</sup>. (243)

**2**

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures





THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



WILLIAM HOLMAN HUNT, 1866

Christ's Way — untried in managing human affairs. The personnel has been lacking. (243)

“Disciplined discipleship” incarnated - “*fleshed out*” - in ordinary human beings in all ordinary conditions of human life. (243-244)

We are not mere spectators!

God moves through people who are prepared to receive freely and cooperate with Him. (244)

And go outside into the world with Jesus. (245)



# Church Leaders Responsible for the Future of the World

**K** We have the means to bring the world effectively under the rule of God<sup>K</sup>. We have all the power. (245)

**The Prevailing Problem** — We have failed...

...to intend to teach people to do all that Christ would have us do.

...to seek His power to the ends He specified, **K**

**1** ...to develop the character<sup>1</sup> needed to bear His power safely throughout the social order<sup>2</sup>, **2**  
or even within the church itself.

Ministers pay far too much attention to people who do not come to services. The task: Equip the saints.

(246)

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures



## **The Church as a School of Life**

The local assembly, for its part, can then become an academy where people throng from the surrounding community to learn how to live. It will be a school of life (for a disciple is but a pupil, a student) where all aspects of that life seen in the New Testament records are practiced and mastered under those who have themselves mastered them through practice.



(247)



# The Prophetic Vision

## “Communities of Justice and Peace”

“Judges” around those who assume loving responsibility for their neighbors with that fully developed character<sup>1</sup> and power of Jesus Christ to which the ministry of the

1

**K** Kingdom of God<sup>K</sup> has brought them, under the real, personal presence of Christ on Earth.

**2** The power structures<sup>2</sup> of this present world will be dissolved. They will be replaced by other structures<sup>K+2</sup> anchored in the...

**K**

**2**

*...redeemed personalities<sup>1</sup> distributed throughout society.*

(248)

1

**K** Kingdom

**1** Individual

**2** Social Structures





# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A



**Meditation** — John 14:21-32

80:00 + 10K

## **Application**

- 1.) What will I do with this final chapter? How much do I want to follow Jesus or stay the same?
- 2.) What 5 people (Level 2 Judge) am I discipling to disciple 10 to Christlikeness? Am I a Level 3 Judge?
- 3.) What spiritual discipline(s) practice(s) today will strengthen my character to learn how to cooperate with the Kingdom of God at work “outside” the church in us in the church?
- 4.) Read and re-read p. 236-237 “Radical Treatment”  
—> *One realistic hope: The person and gospel of Jesus*

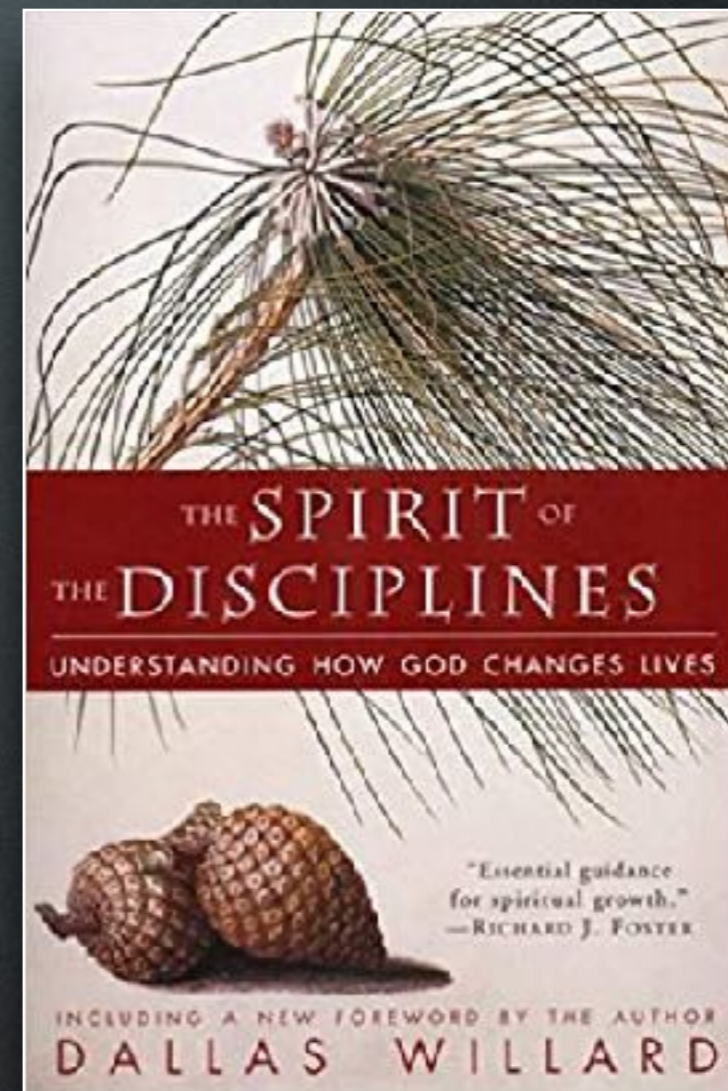


† Cross Fit



## Session 11 Summary

As students in Jesus' school of life, we have the teaching and the means of disciplined discipleship" incarnated - "*fleshed out*" - in us ordinary human beings to yield a new humanity with the power and character of Jesus Christ to govern as God would have it without corruption. And there is more than enough of us already.





# Two New Courses

## NIETZSCHE vs. JESUS Course



Dallas Willard states, "Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) has become very important on the campus and in our culture today because he has come to stand for something that was coming to a head in his own day. You are the heir of a Nietzschean culture. The question is whether or not you can find freedom in that world. You have another world which is presented by Jesus Christ...an intelligent person who would be at home on campus."\*

The course is based on a Veritas Forum\* presentation by Dallas Willard offering keen observations and relevant wisdom to encourage and equip a vibrant pursuit of Christlikeness in a postmodern, un-Christlike culture.

**FREE 30 minute 2 week Zoom Webinar**

**Thursdays, 8 AM - or - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT -7 hours)  
June 20 & 27, 2024**

In two Thursdays on 6/20

## "Jesus, Dallas & NT — Romans 8"



Jesus called and gifted Dallas Willard & NT Wright to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and teach the written Logos as brilliant scholars, compassionate pastors, and genuine followers of Jesus offering biblical truth with a global influence rare in the same generation. Join our 3-session course based on the teachings of Dallas Willard and NT Wright on Romans 8 - what many consider to be the centerpiece of Paul's most powerful writing.

~~~~~  
"Romans 8 - A masterful passage...an essential part for training in Christlikeness will bring Kingdom order into our entire personality." *Renewing the Christian Mind*, by Dallas

~~~~~  
"Romans 8 - A deep dive into Paul's greatest letter." *Into the Heart of Romans*, by NT

**FREE 30 minute 3 week Zoom Webinar**

**Tuesdays, 8 AM - or - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT -7 hours)  
June 25, July 2 & 9, 2024**

In two weeks on 6/25

**Information or Registration — [info@JesusCollege.com](mailto:info@JesusCollege.com)**



# **A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION**

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College  
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“The Spirit of the Disciplines”





# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

*This Certifies that*

*John Wesley*

*Has diligently and devotedly completed in June, 2021 the Course*

**THE SPIRIT OF THE DISCIPLINES**

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



JESUS COLLEGE

*A good school*

Rebecca Willard Heatley

REBECCA WILLARD HEATLEY



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A good school



May God's grace lead your next 10,000 years in the easy yoke of our Lord and Teacher cooperating with God and His people in the eternal government resting securely upon Jesus' shoulders.

Doug



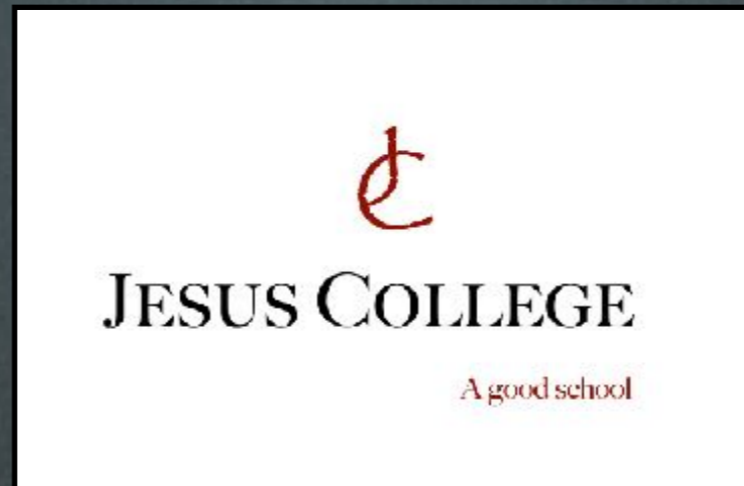


# The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — [JohnC@dwillard.org](mailto: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”*

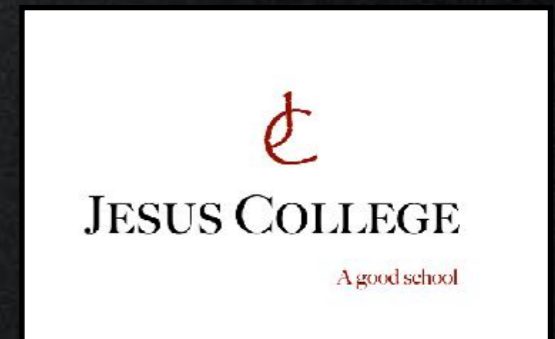


**The Mission of Jesus College** - To Empower Apprentices of the Master of Love who know Jesus as the One, great truth and to live a good life found in His truth.

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