

Divine Conspiracy Book Study
Reflection/Discussion Questions – July 27, 2009

Chapter Six – Investing in the Heavens

1. What is Jesus' divine conspiracy? What are the two main things that will hinder our ability to live in a healthy and "constantly interactive" life with God?

Playing to an Audience of One

2. Why would it be useful to evaluate regularly whom it is that we are trying to impress? How does seeking the approval of other people affect our relationship with God?

Don't Let the Left Hand Know

3. "Jesus points *beyond* action to the *source of action in the character*." (p. 192) What are the actions (rules) we might mistake to be the central teaching of Jesus in Mt 6:1-4?
4. What is the heart or character like of the person whose left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing?

And When You Pray

5. How would praying to an audience of One—praying with no regard for how it looks or sounds to others but only for inward union of mind and heart with God—affect the way we pray publicly? The way we pray privately?

Fasting Before God Alone

6. How believable is it to you that God provides physical nourishment from "spiritual sources" or that we can "nourish ourselves on the person of Jesus"? (pp. 198-99) How does Willard make the case for this?

Secrecy as a Fundamental Discipline

7. What is a spiritual discipline? (Chapter 9 contains further discussion on this topic.) How would a regular practice of doing certain good things in secret make doing them all the time more automatic? (p. 200)

Where Your Treasure Is

8. How is the phrase, “Invest your life in what God is doing”? (p. 205) a useful summary of Mt 6:20? (“...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”)

Life Organizes Itself Around Our Heart

9. Suppose you were a “person who treasures what lies within the kingdom” rather than what is on earth (p. 206). How would that affect your choices about purchases, leisure time, where you live, how you dress, and what you eat?

The Treasures in the Heavens are Now

10. We are told that the treasure that we have in heaven is available to us now. What or who is this treasure? (p. 208) How is this good news (the gospel) to us today?

And the Lilies

11. “Those who understand Jesus and his Father know that provision has been made for them...they “place top priority on identifying and involving themselves in what God is doing and in the kind of rightness (dikaiosune) he has. All else is provided.” (p. 212) How can we grow in our confidence of God’s faithful provision and thus free ourselves to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...”? (Mt 6:33)