

## OVERVIEW

---

# The Original 40 Tweets

---

---

1 – A state governor, an evangelical Christian, was exposed in a very public extra-marital affair. What causes such breakdowns—when behavior contradicts Christian confession?

2 – Jesus spoke of another kind of life, different to what humans typically experience—one permeated with meaning, fulfillment, integrity, joy.

3 – Jesus made astounding claims about the life he offers. It is like water to the thirsty, bread to the hungry. It is life in abundance.

4 – The life Jesus described was eternal in quality as well as duration. He came to restore to humans the ability to share God's life with him.

5 – Jesus: “This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3) Eternal life is knowing God.

6 – What was Jesus talking about? To many he seemed out of touch with the “real world.” But Jesus was speaking about a deeper, Unseen Reality.

7 – Jesus said the life he came to bring is not found by searching the human ideas and traditions all around us. It comes from another Source.

8 – Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God—the sphere in which God rules. This was the central subject in his teaching. He said it was “at hand”.

9 – Jesus said the kingdom of God (of heaven) is available to all, right now, here, next to us, all around us. And it is profoundly desirable.

10 – Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found, sold all he had and bought the field. (Matthew 13:44) Smart man!

11 – Who was this Jesus who was making such claims? Where did he get his information? People said he spoke with authority. “No one ever spoke like this” they said.

12 – If God's unseen Kingdom is open to everybody, right now, two questions arise:

- How does one enter?
- Once in, how does one live there?

13 – Jesus said we enter God’s Kingdom:

- by choosing to turn from our old ways (repentance) and
- by relying on him (faith)

He is the door in.

14 – Entering God’s kingdom, we come into his Presence—the most fulfilling, life-giving experience we have ever had. We want to remain there 24/7.

15 – But we quickly find that to come free from our old ways takes more than willpower. Many of our old ways are deeply entrenched destructive habits.

16 – We try hard to change. We rely on our own strength. Our own strength fails us. We ultimately fall back into discouragement, failure, quiet desperation.

17 – A tragic misunderstanding among Christians: Teach someone how he should behave, and willpower will enable him to do it. The failures are all around us.

18 – It is widely assumed that the Christian life will be characterized by failure. Can this be because so many only experience failure? Is this really what Jesus and the apostles taught?

19 – Inability to live God’s ways in our own strength brings us to the second question: How does one learn to live with God in his kingdom?

20 – We live in God’s kingdom the same way we entered—we turn from our own ways and rely upon Jesus in all of life. But we need to be re-formed (transformed) to be able to do that.

21 – Jesus is known as Savior and Lord. We must also come to know him as Teacher. “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.” (John13:13)

22 – Having announced that God’s kingdom is now available to all, Jesus called disciples. In discipleship he taught them the ways of God’s rule.

23 – We can understand discipleship with Jesus as being an apprenticeship. In an apprenticeship we have:

- a master
- apprentices (learners)
- skills to be mastered

24 – In discipleship with Jesus:

- Jesus is the Master.
- We are the apprentices (learners).
- The skills to be learned are how to live in God’s kingdom.

25 – Much Christian teaching tells me how I ought to behave. But behavior is largely an expression of character—the person I have become on the inside.

26 – What I really need to know is how character is re-formed—how the inner life can be re-shaped toward Christlikeness. Jesus knows how.

27 – To change behavior, Jesus did not focus on behavior. He focused on transforming character—the inner life. He said to grow good fruit you need a good tree.

28 – On the cross Jesus forgave his killers. How did he do it? Super-human willpower? Or was he just the kind of person who forgives his enemies?

29 – In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus was not moralizing but describing. Describing what? How people behave who have hearts re-formed in the righteousness of God's kingdom.

30 – God's ways become my ways as Christlikeness is gradually formed in me. I become the kind of person, for example, who prefers forgiveness to bitterness.

31 – Living in God's kingdom is living under God's rule. Living under God's rule is living in God's Presence. In God's Presence I am gradually changed.

32 – God created me for his Presence like he created fish for water. God's Presence is my true home. Why then do I find staying there so hard?

33 – Barriers within me hinder or block me from abiding in God's Presence. For example:

- guilt
- deeply entrenched destructive habits
- inner wounding

34 – Guilt is the easiest of these to remove, though it tends to receive the most attention. Guilt is removed by the truth and the cross.

35 – I must first tell myself the truth about my sin. Then I can tell God the truth about it (repentance) and repent to those I have wronged.

36 – Having told God the truth about my sin, in prayer I bring it to Christ on the cross. On the cross he made full provision for my guilt to be removed.

37 – The process of removing my destructive habits is more extended. Jesus leads me into a life-long process of dying to the self life, allowing the Holy Spirit to remake me.

38 – Inner pain can block my maturing toward Christlikeness. Sin, mine and that of others around me, has wounded me. Healing comes in God's Presence.

39 – Christlikeness is formed, not in the mind, but in a Relationship. I am with Jesus to learn from Jesus how to be like Jesus. (Dallas Willard)

40 – Discipleship to Jesus produces inwardly transformed people. I am inwardly transformed as I learn from Jesus how to live with him in God's Kingdom—in God's Presence.