

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

## An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

### Week 7 ~ Exploring Chapter 5:1-12

#### Personal Study Time:

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it 5:1-12
- Read Matthew 5:1-7:29 through in one setting
- Re-Read Matthew 5:1-12 at least twice and then answer the following question in your notebook.
  - Begin to analyze the eight beatitudes (count 5:10-12 and one double beatitude) by creating four columns on a blank page in your notebook. In the first column, list the human characteristics for each beatitude; in the second, the implications of each characteristic; in the third, the blessings; and in the fourth, when the blessing is bestowed.
- Re-Read Matthew 5:3-12 and then answer the following question in your notebook.
  - A few years ago, Donald Kraybill wrote a book based on the principles of 5:3-12 entitled *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. As you look at the eight beatitudes, write a short paragraph for each, demonstrating how the principles of God's kingdom differ from the principles of this world.
- Re-Read Matthew 5:1-12 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - As you examine the beatitudes, do you see any way to categorize them or outline them?
  - Do you see any line of progression in them, or is their order random?
  - Enter your thoughts and/or outline in your notebook.
- Re-Read Matthew 5:3-12 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - In what ways does my life measure up to each of the first seven beatitudes (5:3-9)?
  - For which of the beatitudes do I need to pray for an extra measure of God's grace?
- Re-Read Matthew 5:10 and then answer the following question in your notebook.
  - In what ways have I experienced "persecution" in the past few months?
  - Looking back, can I say that I rejoice over those experiences?
  - If not, what practical steps can I take right now to fulfill Jesus' promise to believers that they will rejoice in persecutions?

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).