

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

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

### Week 9 ~ Exploring Chapter 6

#### 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 chapter 6
- Read Matthew 6 twice in one setting and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Compare 6:1 with 5:16. Can these texts be harmonized? If so, how?
  - Matthew's council on almsgiving, prayer and fasting (vss. 2-6, 16-18) is built on a threefold repetition of the same pattern. Analyze the pattern, and list its basic components.
- Re-read Matthew 6 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Look up the word *hypocrite* in a Bible dictionary. In what ways does the meaning of the Greek word illuminate the nuances of the word in English?
  - Some have held that Jesus is arguing against public prayer in verse 6. List things you discover in verses 5, 6, and 9-13 that may help resolve that issue.
- Re-Read Matthew 6:9-13 and answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Some people have suggested that the Lord's Prayer is an ideal prayer. List the prayer's basic elements in the order that Jesus gives them (for example, the first element is adoration of God). Now discuss the logic that you find in the order of these elements.
  - As you examine your prayer life (or other aspects of your devotional practices) in the light of Matthew 6, in what ways can you improve them or make them richer?
- Re-Read Matthew 6:19-34 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Each paragraph in verses 19 to 34 contains a powerful principle-based sentence that is outstanding for its counsel to Christians. Underline what you consider to be the most important sentence in each paragraph and rewrite it in your notebook in your own words.
    - Now, in a few lines discuss the way that the sentence you underline illuminates the meaning of the paragraph in which it is found.
  - In light of this passage, where is your treasure? In what ways, according to Matthew 6, can you determine where it is?
- Re-Read Matthew 6:19-34 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - List the arguments that Jesus puts forth against worry in verses 19 to 34. In one sentence, give what you believe to be the essence of His argument against worry.
  - What are you worrying about? What should you be worried about? Who wants you to worry? How can you overcome your worries?

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