

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

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

Week 17 ~ Exploring Chapter 16:20 – 17:27

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 16:21 – 17:27
- Read Matt. 16:21-17:27 twice and then address the following question in your notebook.
  - In a few sentences, discuss what you believe the theme of this passage is.
- Read Matt 16:21-23 and then answer the following questions.
  - 16:21 is the first of three predictions by Jesus in Matthew of His death and resurrection. Use your marginal references and a concordance to find the other two. Now compare the three passages and list the distinct items that Christ specifies about His ordeal in 16:21. Then list the items of information added by the other two references.
  - From what you know about the Jewish concept of the Messiah and human psychology as it applies to Peter and the other disciples write a paragraph or two highlighting the reasons for Peter's reaction to Jesus' announcement in 16:22. Then discuss why Jesus reacted so vigorously in verse 23. Using your marginal references or concordance discover where else in Matthew Jesus made a similar "Satan" statement. What implications does that other passage have for 16:23?
- Read 16:24-26 and then answer the following questions.
  - What was a cross? What was its purpose? Write a summary of the meaning of 16:24 in light of that purpose and in light of the verse that follow. Find Luke's parallel passage to 16:21-28. What does Luke add to our understanding of 16:24
- Read 16:27-28 and 17:1-13 and then answer the following questions.
  - Do your best to explain 16:28 as if it were an isolated text (that is without any context). Then seek to explain it in light of 16:27. Also, explain it in the light of 17:1-13. Now, after examining the contextual implications, write a summary of what you think the text means in its context.
- Re-Read 17:1-13 and then answer the following questions.
  - List the elements involved in the Transfiguration. What is the meaning of that event for Jesus? For the disciples? Why do you think Jesus took only three of His disciples with Him?
- Read 17:14-21 and then answer the following questions.
  - Summarize in a few sentences the main point or lesson in 17:14-21. How does that lesson fit into the flow Matthew's Gospel as Jesus and the disciples move toward the Cross?
- Application – How is the cross in your life? Have you crucified Christ, or have you let Him crucify you? Are you really a Christian or are you just playing "church"? What evidence do you have to support your answers?

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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).