

## ***Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus*** **Part 1—Be Attentive**

### **Matthew 5:1-2; 7:24-29**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,<sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them. He said...

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

<sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

#### **1. Approaching Jesus as teacher (Matt. 5:1-2)**

*He went up and sat down.*

The intimation that he sat down to teach his disciples is the indication that this teaching is central, that it is official, that it is the very essence of this teaching.

—William Barclay

#### **2. Applying Jesus' word (Matt. 7:24-29)**

*Hears these words of mine and puts them into practice*

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

—John 13:15,17

#### **3. Acknowledging Jesus' authority (Matt. 7:28-29)**

*Because he taught as one who had authority*

“You have heard that it was said ... But I tell you...”

—Matthew 5:21-22 (also 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44)

We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God and have ultimate authority in all areas of faith and life.

—SBPC Core Beliefs: 1. The Bible

*And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.*

—1 Thessalonians 2:13

*All scriptures are Today's New International Version*

# Small Group Questions

Solana Beach Presbyterian Church

## **SBPC Sermon-Based Small Groups Week of September 17, 2006**

### ***Be Different: Living the Ethics of Jesus***

#### **Part 1: *Be Attentive*—Matthew 5:1-2, 7:24-29**

#### **REFLECT ON IT—Personal preparation prior to Small Group meeting**

Follow this process on three occasions before your Small Group meets:

- Take time to slowly and meditatively read Matt 5:1-2 and 7:24-29.
- Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten your heart and mind.
- Take time to reflect on the following questions: What does it say to me? What is God's invitation to me? Imagine yourself approaching Jesus; what would you ask him?

#### **START IT—Connecting with each other**

- If there is anyone new in your group, introduce yourselves.
- What would you like to see happen this session in our group? What are your expectations?
- In general, do you tend to resist authority or do you welcome it?

#### **REVIEW IT—Commitment Form**

- Distribute the forms. Ask each person to read one bullet point aloud (unless they choose to pass) and share one example of what might happen if it was ignored.

#### **STUDY IT—Matthew 5:1-2, 7:24-29**

- What did you find challenging, surprising, or encouraging from the "Reflect on It" exercise?
- Read the passage aloud. What stood out to you in this week's scripture or message?

#### **LIVE IT—Applying the truth of Scripture to life**

- Distribute the bookmarks; continue to have each person read one Core Value. After they are all read, ask each person to share: Which of the Core Values would you like to see increase in your life over the next 10 weeks? How might that benefit your life? Our group?

#### **PRAY IT—Supporting one another through care and prayer**

- **Application:** Ask for God's help in applying today's passage to your life.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for the Children's and Student's Ministries as they kick-off a new fall session. Pray that all kids would feel welcome, find the message of scripture relevant to their lives, and be attracted to know Jesus as Lord of their lives.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for SBPC member, Rev. Hollis Allen, and Hope Ministries. Ask God to open doors into the lives of the HIV/AIDS patients Hollis serves, that many would come to know the love of Christ.
- **Personal requests:** How can this group pray for you?