Pastor Dave Teixeira
January 10, 2010
Matthew 5:27-48
"Lust, Lies & Life"

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Lust—Matthew 5:27-30

Jesus reminds us in verse 28 that God is just as concerned with what is happening in our hearts as He is with our outward actions. We can tend to believe that what happens in our minds and hearts isn't real. But Jesus knows that everything that happens in this world starts in our minds and hearts. In other words, outward expression of sin starts somewhere.

Jesus says, if something in life "causes you to sin," "makes you stumble," "leads you toward destructive actions" then you should work to completely rid your life of it. Don't dabble with something potentially dangerous!

In this passage, He uses the example of lust and adultery.

- What are the things in people's lives that lead to adultery? Where does adultery begin?
- What would it look like to "cut these things off and throw them away?"
- Are there any habits, behaviors or relationships that you need to "cut off and throw away?"
- Jesus uses lust to make a very significant point here, but what about other things in your life that cause you to sin? Not just lust. What are some other sins you are tempted with and where do they start? What would it look like to "cut them off and throw them away?"

Words—Matthew 5:33

- What do you think this section is about?

I think what Jesus is saying is that a Kingdom of Heaven life is one where a person's word is so rock solid that EVERYTHING they say is as if they have sworn on the Bible or their Mother's grave or even God's holy name. To use words from the passage, all your words are spoken like they are "oaths you have made to the Lord."

- Think about God being a partner in every single verbal transaction you have! Imagine all your words, all your promises, everything you say being tied to and associated with God. Wow! We might just watch what we say a bit more if that were the case...and Jesus say it is.
- Share some of the ways your words might change if God were a part of all that you said (And I'm not just talking about cussing!).
- What are other things in your life, that if you considered God to be a part of them, would need to change?

- What else from the passages/sermon this week: touched, intrigued, challenged, enlightened, convicted, upset, affirmed, or simply made you think?