Pastor Dave Teixeira
January 24, 2010
Matthew 6:1-18

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.

Recently I saw a book on the "Top Buys" shelf at Target with a title something like, "How to Give Others the Impression You are a Better Person Without Doing the Hard Work of Real Life Change." I have to admit, I laughed out loud. But the truth is, we all have this built-in desire for giving off the impression that we are trying to do so. The word for this in the Bible and Christian life is hypocrite.

- Share a time when you've been a hypocrite.

The Greek word for hypocrite means to put on a mask; to pretend to be someone you are not. I like to say that a hypocrite is where the inside doesn't match the outside.

- In **Matthew 6:1-2**, what is the external motivation and how does it differ from the internal motivation?
- How does what Jesus says in **verses 3 and 4** provide a natural cure for the temptation of hypocrisy in giving?
- How might this look in different areas of YOUR life?
- What is the reward when you give—so others will see or that only God will see?
- In **verses 5-8**, what are the internal and external motivations of a hypocritical prayer?
- Have you ever been tempted to pray this way?
- In **verses 7 and 8**, is Jesus putting a time limit on your prayers? What is His point and how would you apply this teaching to your life?

Read verses 16-18. We don't do a lot of fasting these days (although maybe we should, but that's another sermon). However, we have our own Christian disciplines that are often touted about.

- What are some of those disciplines and are you guilty of touting about any of them?

Why are we so driven to feel and appear super spiritual? What is it about us that wants others to think we are more righteous than we really are? Don't we know there is freedom in authenticity, honesty and confession?

- Share something that makes you look really unspiritual. (No judging what people share!) Confess a reality in your life that you've been tempted to hide or cover-up so that you don't look less Christian, committed or spiritual. (No gossip!)
- Is there anything else from the sermon this week that challenged you, bothered you, struck you, annoyed you or caused you to think or act?