Pastor Dave Teixeira
February 21, 2010
Matthew 7:1-6
"Judgment"

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.

Jesus is just ruthless isn't He? He ruthlessly zeroes in on the places deep in our hearts that veer off track. This week is no different as we look at judging others. It's something we do so often and so easily, and sometimes so subconsciously, that we don't even realize we're doing it. Well, Jesus offers us a new way—the way of the Kingdom, judgment free.

Read Matthew 7:1-2... Judge others in the way you wish to be judged

- Have you ever been judged harshly by others? Judged either formally or informally, legally or socially, fairly or unfairly? Share about that.
- Don't you feel vulnerable when you are being judged? Describe the kind of judgment you want when you sit vulnerably as the object of judgment? Jesus wants us to remember how we want to be judged when we are in a position to judge others.
- On a scale of 1-10, how closely do you come to judging others the way you would like to be judged?

Read Matthew 7:3-5.
It is so easy to look past our own sin and focus on the sin of others. Jesus says to be ever aware of your propensity to be more critical of the sin of others than you are of your own sin.

- Okay, first, what is Jesus NOT saying here? Do we have to be perfect before we are allowed to point out sin in other people? Should we ever say that anything is a sin because of the danger of being a hypocrite? What do you think Jesus is trying to teach?
- How aware are you of the sin in your own life, and how does that impact the way you approach sin in the lives of others?
- Talk about the attitude and heart of the person Jesus describes in these verses.

What I believe lies at the heart of judgment is self-comparison. We often judge so that as we compare ourselves to others, we seem...better, holier, more righteous. And we feel the need to do this because somewhere in our hearts there is insecurity.

- Share an area of your life that you are insecure. Does that insecurity sometimes manifest itself as harsh judgment of others?

Read Matthew 7:6
There are two ways of interpreting verse 6:

1. Do not offer correction to those unwilling to hear it.
2. Do not judge and throw the good reputation of those in the church away.

- What is your interpretation?