Pastor Dave Teixeira
February 28, 2010
Matthew 7:7-14

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.

Most of the time I end with this question, but this week, let's start with:

- After listening to the sermon, what grabbed you? Challenged you? Frustrated you? Moved you? Angered you? Encouraged you? Convicted you?

Jesus has just been teaching on how the sin of others can sometimes lead to a judging spirit in us. Instead He tells us to have understanding, self-evaluation and humility as we approach sin in others. He also tells us that we are to discern the heart of the other person and their receptivity to truth before speaking it.

But how will we know? How can we know our own heart, let alone the heart of another?

Read Matthew 7:7-8.

- How does Jesus say we can know?

Sometimes these verses get quoted as if God will answer all prayer with a yes and give us whatever we want. But really, this is a verse about discernment from God. This is about Holy Spirit driven relationships vs. rule and truth driven relationships.

- As you think about your relationships, how is that difficult?
- How is it freeing?

Jesus goes on to say that God will not misguide us. He uses three very practical examples to illustrate this, concluding with a statement about our parenting vs. His parenting.

Read Matthew 7:11.

- What is Jesus trying to say here?

Read Matthew 7:12.

The Golden Rule. In the context of this passage, what is the Golden Rule really about? Certainly it can be applied universally, but Jesus brings it out in the context of a very difficult relational interaction—when someone has a splinter in their eye that needs to be removed. (Not literally, of course. Jesus is talking about sin.)

- Apply the Golden Rule to your life in this context. Is there a time when you could have applied it and did? Didn't? Now?

Read Matthew 7:13-14.

- Talk about the adventure of the Christian life. How does the context of these verses change the meaning we often attribute to them?
- What would it look life for you to live a 7:13 life?