Pastor Dave Teixeira
November 15, 2009
Matthew 5:1-12

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.

First off, as Jesus begins this great sermon, as He launches into these wonderful pictures of what Kingdom life looks like, He "sat down." In the Jewish world this was a position of authority. What Jesus is about to say is not optional or just something to consider. He is now speaking from a place of authority.

- Share some examples of good authority (people you wanted to follow, listen to, take direction from) and bad authority (people you had to follow, listen to take direction from) in your life.

- What kind of authority does Jesus have in your life? How much authority does Jesus have in your life? Are you a hearer or a follower? Are you a "disciple" or just in the "crowd?"

I want to again challenge you not to make these words of Jesus a legalistic set of rules that weigh you down. They are the things you will value and what your life will reflect if you love and follow Jesus. This whole section is not simply about things you need to do, but who you must become.

The word "blessed" is a Greek word that means "divine happiness," happiness that lasts, happiness that is not fleeting, happiness that runs deep and happiness that is not found in the values, pursuits and possessions of this world. In this section Jesus is saying that what you are looking for deep within your souls, you can only find in His Kingdom.

Read Matthew 5:3-10. (If you are in a group, have someone read it out loud.)

- Is this your life? Do you live, value and reflect the values of the Kingdom? (In an overall sense) Does your life bring hope to the poor in spirit? To those who mourn? The meek? Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Are you merciful? (Not, have you ever shown or not shown mercy, but are you generally merciful?) Rate yourself 1-10.

- What are the things that keep you from living by Kingdom values? What prevents you from becoming this kind of person/living this kind of life?

- Think about our culture. Do the values of the Kingdom run with or counter to our culture? How?

- What else from this week's sermon do you want to discuss? Was there anything that challenged you, caused you to think, begged further discussion, you disagreed with...