Pastor Dave Teixeira
December 6, 2009
Matthew 5:17-20

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.

Do you ever have an all or nothing approach to anything? Do you ever operate in extremes? I'm this way when it comes to eating and exercise. Oh, I know it's not a good thing, but it's true, and so I admit it.

- What are you "all or nothing" about? Where in your life do you go to the extreme?

In Matthew 5:17-20, Jesus is dealing with two groups of people who have extreme, "all or nothing" approaches to following the Law of God. One group is ready to throw out the Law altogether. Another is so focused on it that they have forgotten what it's all about.

- Which side are you tempted toward in your life? Are you a "get too focused on the details, rules and fine points of life" type of person? Or, do you tend to disregard the details to a fault? What would your spouse or friends say about you? Rate yourself on the following scale and try to come up with an example or two.

1———————————————————————————————-10
(Detail/Rule Focused) (Detail/Rule Neglector)

- How does this tendency play out in your spiritual life?

In this passage Jesus makes a pretty **bold** statement: "I have not come to abolish (the Law or the Prophets) **but to fulfill them.**"

- What do you think He means by this?

It seems to me that Jesus is getting down to the heart of the matter here. He doesn't want rule-following. He doesn't want rule-disregarding. He calls for what God's intent was in issuing the rules to begin with...A Kingdom Life!!! It's about a life lived loving God and loving others.

In the closing verse of this section, Jesus says that a Kingdom life will surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees. Wow! These guys were as righteous as it got!

- Who are the Pharisees of today? How must we surpass their righteousness?

- What rules are we tempted to follow in the church today, all the while missing the point of following Jesus and living the Kingdom of Heaven life He offers?