Pastor Dave Teixeira
December 13, 2009
Matthew 5:21-33

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.

"You have heard it said...But I tell you…" In this series of teachings, Jesus is now unpacking for us, not just rules, but the heart behind the rules. Jesus says, long before actions occur, there are feelings and attitudes and thoughts that fester inside of us. The key, according to Jesus, is a transformation of the internal life, not simply an avoidance of really bad external behaviors.

Murder—Matthew 5:21-26

- Share a time when you were angry with someone and you said to them, "You fool!" (or worse)

Jesus tells us here to not just avoid murder, but to eradicate the hateful, angry feelings that lead to murder. In fact, make this the highest of priorities in your life.

- Do you think Jesus really means you can never get angry with anyone for anything? What is He really saying here? Why does He place such urgency on this? (see verses 23-26). Does He really mean you should leave church to reconcile with someone? Is it only church that should take a back seat to reconciliation?

Adultery—Matthew 5:27-30

Jesus is once again not just concerned about outward actions, but the inward life that leads to an outward life of sin. He speaks in hyperbole to emphasize how serious this is to the Kingdom life. (verses 29-30)

- What are the things in people's lives that lead to adultery? What would it look like to "cut them off and throw them away?"

- Are there any habits, behaviors or relationships that you need to "cut off and throw away?"

Words—Matthew 5:33

In this verse, I think Jesus is saying that a Kingdom of Heaven life is one where a person's word is so rock solid that EVERYTHING they say is as if they have sworn on the Bible or their mother's grave. To use words from the passage, all your words are spoken like they are "oaths you have made to the Lord." You have no need to swear, because you are so honest, it is impossible to up the stakes of your truth-speaking.

- Who has exemplified this in your life? Whose word and statements are this solid to you?

- What would change about you if you were to truly live this out?

- What else from the passages/sermon this week touched, intrigued, challenged, enlightened, convicted, upset, affirmed or simply made you think?