THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

January 26 & 27 '08
"Reboot" Series

This Week's Message:
Show Me the Love – It's the Heart of the Matter
Pastor Jeff McNairn
Matthew 5.21-30

Do you have questions about Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount? Send them to sermonquestions@willowparkchurch.com and then listen to future messages for the answers!

Our condolences go out to three families that have lost loved ones over the past few days.

Merle Smith passed away Tuesday, January 22nd
His funeral was Saturday at 1 pm
Elisabeth Vickery passed away Tuesday, January 21st
Funeral service is Monday at 2pm at Evangel church
George Smith passed away January 17th in Mexico
Memorial service is Wednesday, January 30th at 1pm at WPC

All three leave behind spouses, children, and grandchildren. We pray for God's peace and comfort during these days and the days ahead.

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Take a moment to scan through chapter 5 of Matthew. In this chapter Jesus touches upon a number of issues which speak to all of society today. Whether the issue be murder, adultery, divorce, taking oaths, revenge, or loving your enemies Jesus is wanting us to learn one truth.

- What do you think it is that Jesus wants us to learn? Take time to think this through or discuss with your group before moving on)

The first thing that Jesus wants us to learn is that it is the spirit of the law and not the law itself that matters most.

- Why do you think this is? Take the prohibition against murder as an example, why were the Pharisees and the teachers of the law missing the point when they thought that they were doing right because they had not murdered?
- Why is it important for us to realize that conformity to the law must not be thought of in terms of actions only?
- When looking at the law (i.e. do not commit murder, do not commit adultery, etc) why is it important to not only look at it negatively? In other words, what is the real purpose of the law? (discuss before reading on)

The purpose of the law is not merely to stop us from doing bad things. Its true purpose is to lead us to do the opposite. Martyn Lloyd Jones once said that the intent of the law is to lead us to do what is right and to love doing it.

Anger

- Is anger always wrong? Explain the difference between examples of Jesus' anger and the anger he is confronting in us in this text?
- Reconciliation is not always as easy as it sounds. What needs to happen in our lives before we can reconcile with others?

Lust

- How would you define lust?
- Why is lust so dangerous? What does it do to relationships?
- It is obvious that in verses 29-30 Jesus is speaking in hyperbole; what is the principle that Jesus is trying to teach us?
- How would you counsel someone who has come to you with this issue?

Application

- Is there someone in your life with whom you have had a difference or dispute with? What steps do you need to take right now to get that settled? If you can share this with someone and ask them to pray for you and help you to do this.
- Are you struggling with sexual purity in your life? If you are you need to speak with someone about it ASAP for the biggest diffuser of Satan's strong hold in this area is when you come out of the silence of your struggle and into the light.

The sermon on the mount is not meant to be another list of laws and regulations – on the contrary – the sermon on the mount is meant to free us and to develop our spiritual character.

Resources:
Recommended Books

- Marriage Undercover – Bob and Audrey Meisner
- Everyman's Battle – Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker
- An Affair of the Mind – Laurie Hall

Recommended Websites

- xxxchurch.com
- covenanteyes.com